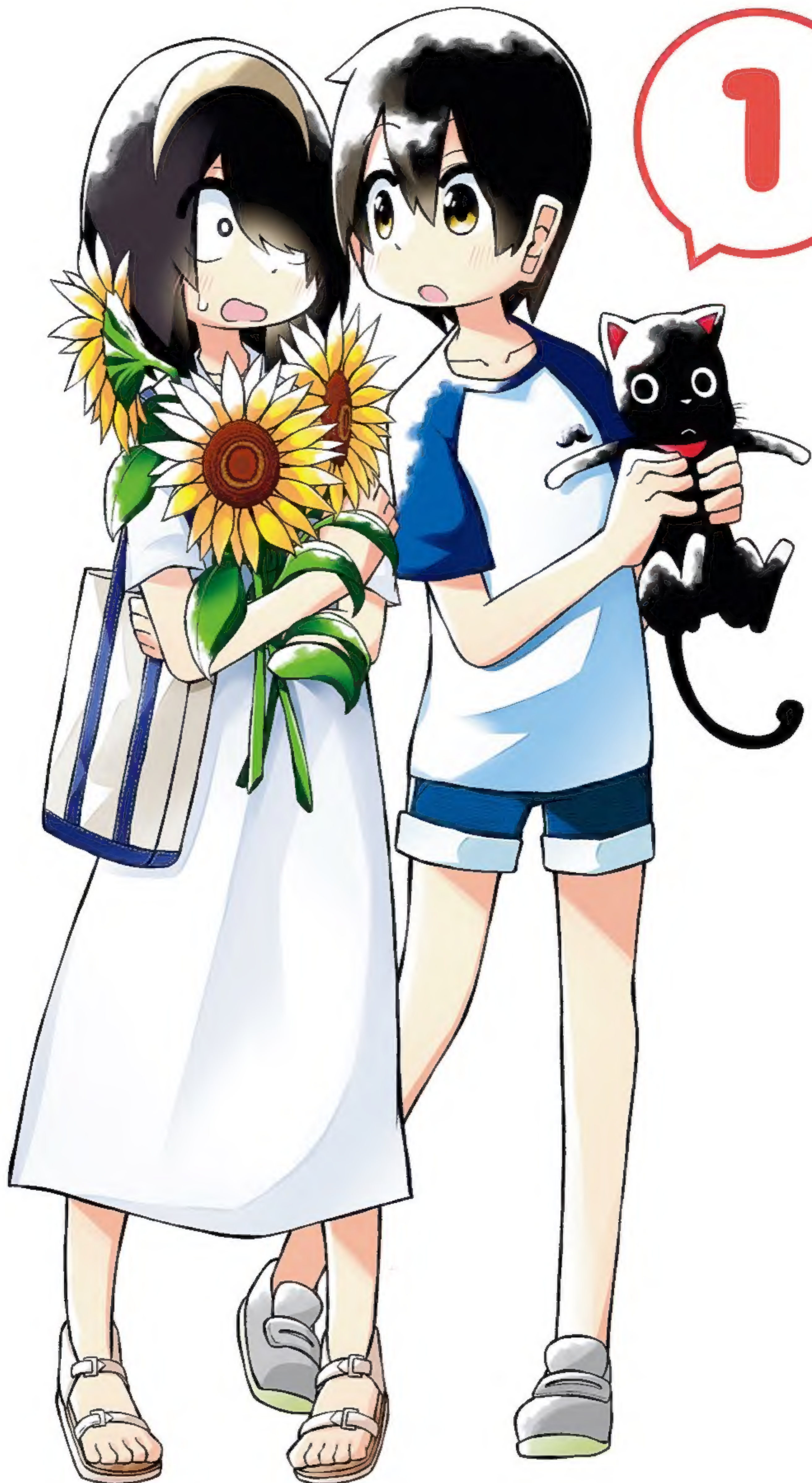


TAKU KAWAMURA

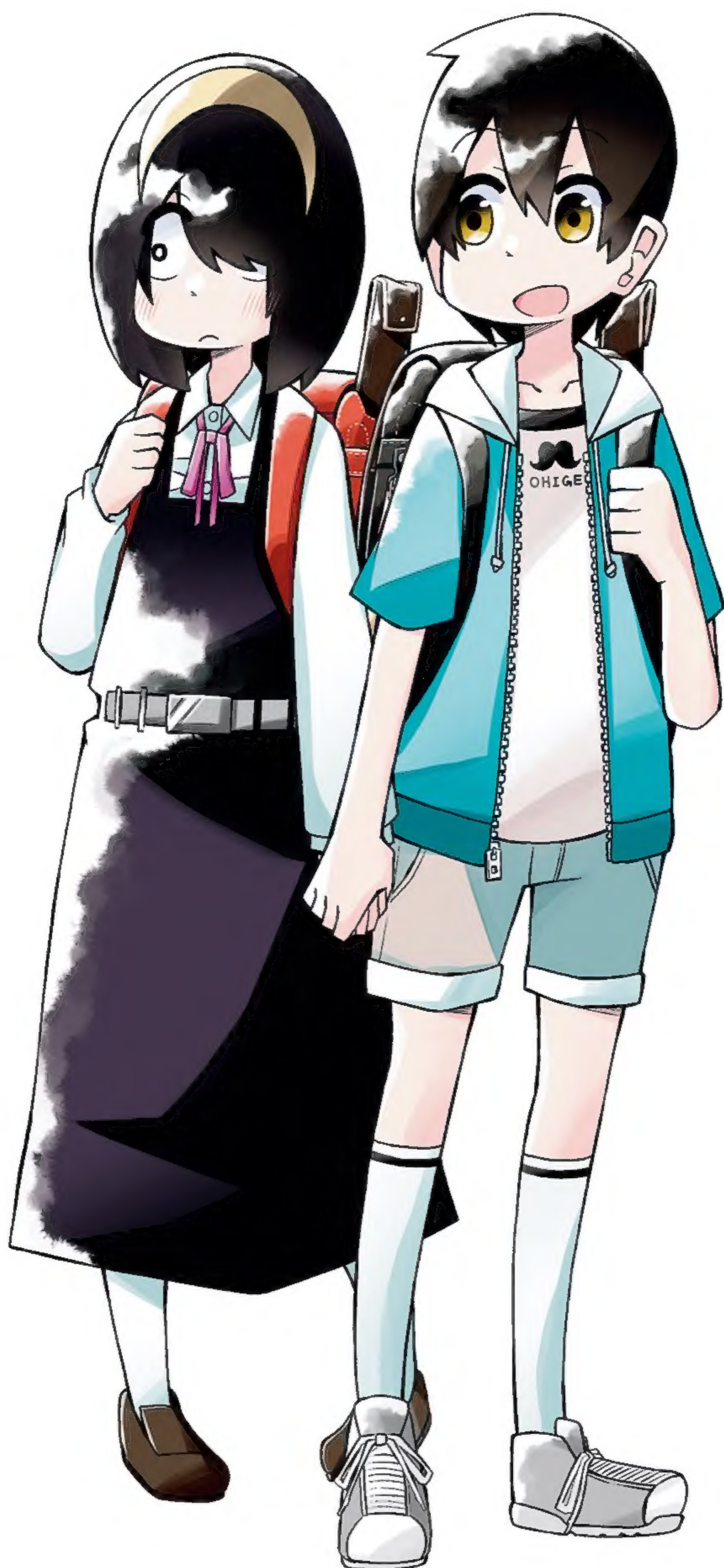
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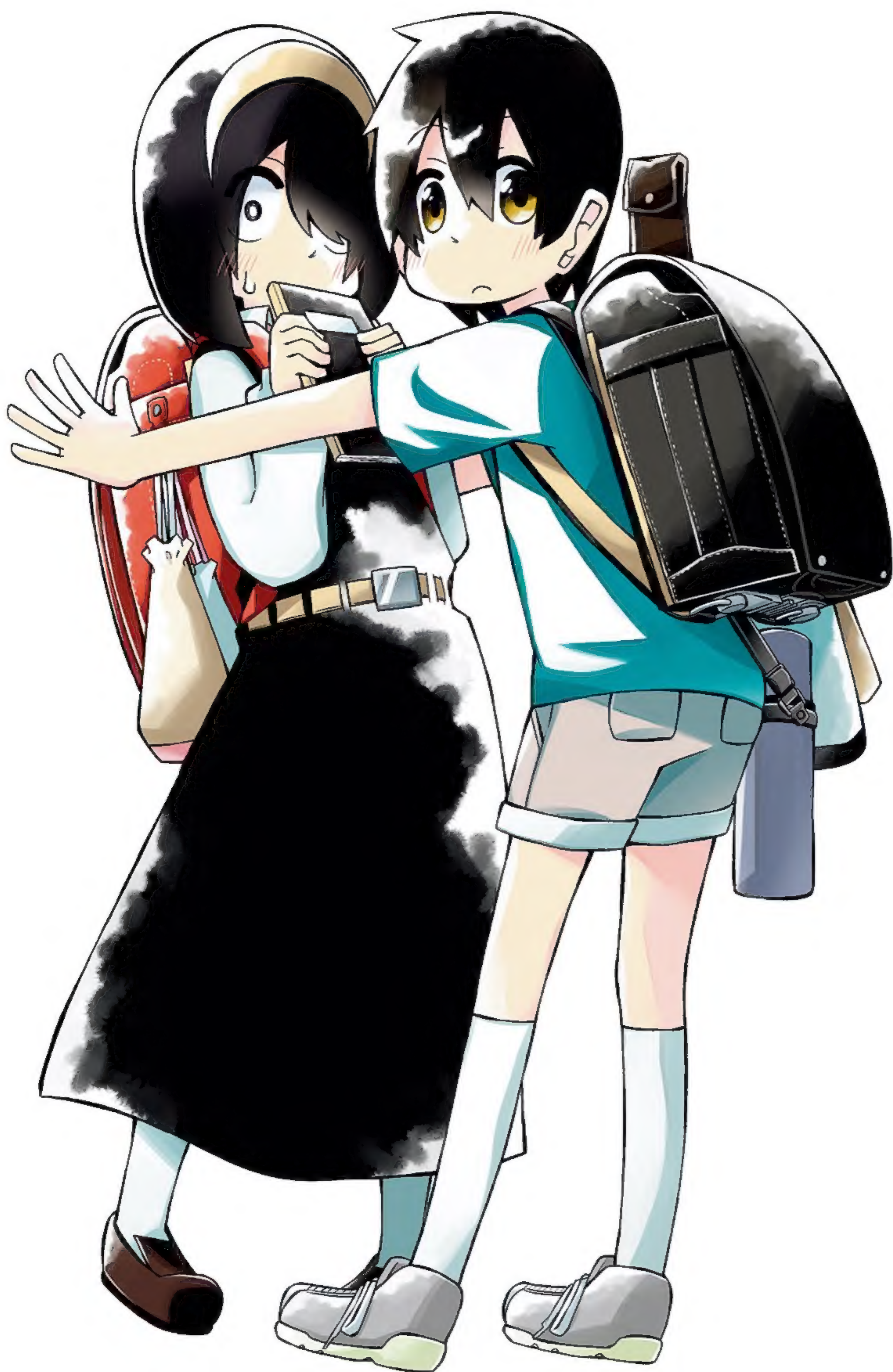


MY CLUELESS FIRST FRIEND



story and art by **TAKU KAWAMURA**







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SO GLOOMY!

...SUCH A GRIM REAPER VIBE.

HEH. NISHIMURA'S GOT...

I JUST TRANSFERRED INTO THIS CLASS...

Chapter 1

THIS IS MY CLASSMATE NISHIMURA.



I CAST BARRIER! BARRIER!

TOUCH THE GRIM REAPER AND YOU'LL BECOME ONE TOO!



...SO I DON'T KNOW WHY THAT IS.

FOR SOME REASON, EVERYONE CALLS HER THE GRIM REAPER.



NISHIMURA THE GRIM REAPER.



THE GRIM REAPER.



THE REASON BEHIND MY NICKNAME?



HOW FREAKIN' BOSS OF A NICK-NAME IS THAT?!

OH MAN!

DANG IT! HOW...

HE'S AN IDIOT.

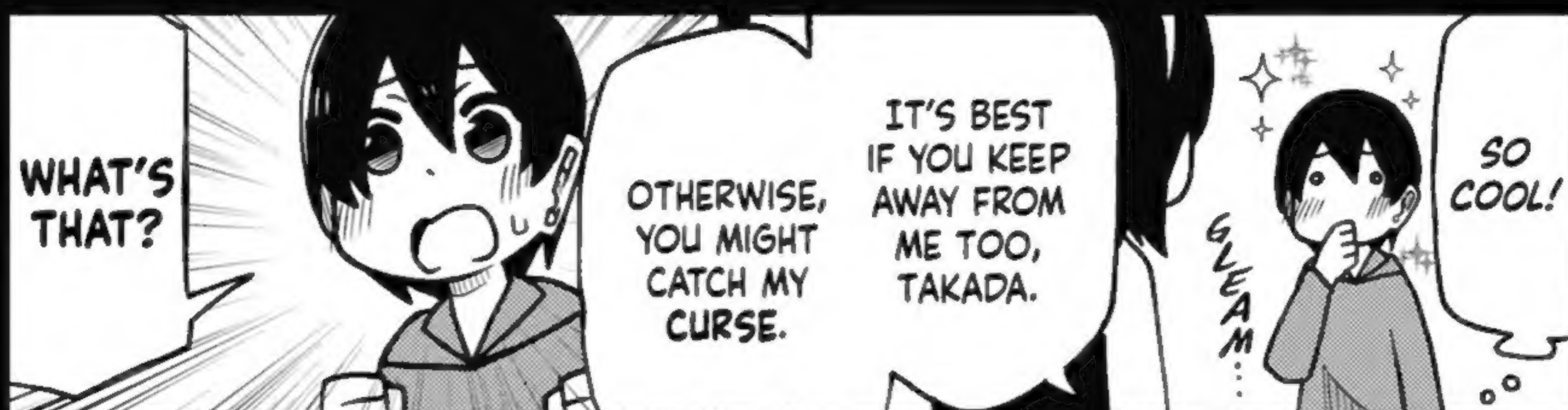


...BUT
MAYBE IT HAS
SOMETHING
TO DO WITH
MY INTENSE
STARE.

I GUESS
PEOPLE
THINK I
HAVE EYES
LIKE A
DEAD FISH
OR SOME-
THING?

GLARE

I DON'T
KNOW WHY
EXACTLY...



WHAT'S
THAT?

OTHERWISE,
YOU MIGHT
CATCH MY
CURSE.

IT'S BEST
IF YOU KEEP
AWAY FROM
ME TOO,
TAKADA.

SWEAM...

SO
COOL!



A DEATH
CURSE?!

AN
ORDINARY
KID CAN
HAVE
SOMETHING
THAT
WICKED?!

GEMOANS

THEY SAY
YOU'LL GET
INFECTED WITH
A DEATH CURSE
IF YOU COME
NEAR ME AND
TOUCH ME
AND STUFF.

HUH?
H-HECK
IF I
KNOW. L L

IT'S JUST
SOMETHING
A BUNCH OF
IMMATURE
BOYS MADE
UP...

WHO-O-O-A!

SOUNDS
SUPER-
COOL!
WHAT
IS IT?
HUH?



YOU
DO?!

I
WANT
THEM
TO
ASK.

FINE BY
ME. I'D
ACTUALLY
LIKE THAT.

A-AND IF
THEY THINK
YOU'RE MY
FRIEND,
THEY MIGHT
SAY WORSE
THINGS...

YEAH!
SOUNDS
GREAT!

THEY'LL
ALL BE
LIKE, "HE'S
THE GRIM
REAPER'S
FRIEND"...

Fl...

FINE. DO
WHAT YOU
WANT, I
GUESS...

WOO
HOO!

YAY!
YAY!
YAY!

BECAUSE
I WANT TO
BE YOUR
FRIEND,
NISHIMURA.

I'M A
TRANSFER
STUDENT,
SO I DON'T
KNOW WHY
THAT IS.

Chapter
2

GRIM

THIS IS MY
CLASSMATE
NISHIMURA.

AND
FOR SOME
REASON,
EVERYONE
CALLS HER
"THE GRIM
REAPER."



SHE'S
LIKE THE
GRIM
REAPER.

NISHIMURA'S
EYES ARE
SUPER
CREEPY,
AREN'T
THEY?

DON'T
TOUCH IT!
YOU'LL
CATCH HER
CURSE!

THE GRIM
REAPER WAS
READING
THIS BOOK
BEFORE!

DANG
IT!
HOW...

STARE

NISHIMURA
THE GRIM
REAPER.

THE
GRIM
REAPER.



I WISH
PEOPLE
WOULD SAY
I HAVE A
CURSE OR
THAT I'M
A GRIM
REAPER
TOO!

HOW
FREAKIN'
BOSS...

...OF A
NICK-
NAME IS
THAT?!

HE'S AN IDIOT.

SNICKER
SNICKER

GLARE

Chapter

2





NISHIMURA!



WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
WALK HOME
TOGETHER?

WHAT
IS IT?



I
WOULDN'T
WANT
EVERYONE
TO MAKE
FUN OF YOU
BECAUSE
OF ME.

SORRY.
I'M GONNA
GO BACK
ALONE.

WHISPER
WHISPER

SNICKER
SNICKER

UH, HOW
SHOULD I
KNOW?



THEN WHO
SHOULD I
WALK HOME
WITH?

THEN
...

...BUT I
THINK PEOPLE
WILL SAY THAT
YOU'LL CATCH
MY CURSE OR
THAT YOU'RE
FRIENDS WITH
THE GRIM
REAPER AND
STUFF.

IT
DOESN'T
BOTHR
ME...

WOULD
PEOPLE
MAKE FUN
OF ME FOR
WALKING
HOME WITH
YOU?



I REALLY,
REALLY WISH
THEY'D SAY
I'M FRIENDS
WITH THE GRIM
REAPER!

WOOOO!

THEY
WILL?!
AWE-
SOME!

?!
?!



YOU'RE
SO
COOL,
NISHI-
MURA!

I REALLY
DO WANT
TO BE YOUR
FRIEND!



HEY,
NEW
KID!

EH HEH
HEH. AM
I?



TAKADA.

YOU'RE...
WEIRD.



KITAGAWA!



NOT WITH
MS. GRIM
REAPER!

IF YOU
GOT NO
ONE ELSE TO
GO WITH,
YOU SHOULD
WALK HOME
WITH US.

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOIN',
NEW
KID?



THE
SCORPION
CREW
SOUNDS
PRETTY
COOL!

WHAT?
FOR
REAL?!

NOW'S YOUR
CHANCE TO
JOIN US. WE'LL
LET YOU BE A
PART OF THE
SCORPION
CREW.

WOW!
Doo

NO, I'M TALKING TO YOU, TAKADA.

ISN'T THAT GREAT, NISHIMURA?

THE GRIM REAPER JUST MADE SOME NEW FRIENDS!

I'M ONLY INVITING YOU.

?!

NO, I'M TALKING TO YOU, TAKADA.

ISN'T THAT GREAT, NISHIMURA?

THE GRIM REAPER JUST MADE SOME NEW FRIENDS!

?!

I'M ONLY INVITING YOU.

NO, I'M TALKING TO YOU, TAKADA.

?!

ISN'T THAT GREAT, NISHIMURA?

I'M ONLY INVITING YOU.

THE GRIM REAPER JUST MADE SOME NEW FRIENDS!

NO, I'M TALKING TO YOU, TAKADA.

?!

ISN'T THAT GREAT, NISHIMURA?

I'M ONLY INVITING YOU.

THE GRIM REAPER JUST MADE SOME NEW FRIENDS!

NO, I'M TALKING TO YOU, TAKADA.

?!

ISN'T THAT GREAT, NISHIMURA?

I'M ONLY INVITING YOU.

THE GRIM REAPER JUST MADE SOME NEW FRIENDS!

**LIKE ANYONE
WOULD
REALLY WALK
HOME WITH
MS. GRIM
REAPER!**

**GYA HA HA
HA! DANG,
NEW KID,
YOU GOT
JOKES!**

**LIKE ANYONE
WOULD
REALLY WALK
HOME WITH
MS. GRIM
REAPER!**

**GYA HA HA
HA! DANG,
NEW KID,
YOU GOT
JOKES!**

YOU TOO, NISHIMURA?!

JUST FORGET ABOUT ME. I THINK YOU'D BE BETTER OFF IF YOU DID.

TAKA-DA!

WELL, I WOULD. I WANTED TO WALK HOME WITH HER.

YOU TOO, NISHIMURA?!

JUST FORGET ABOUT ME. I THINK YOU'D BE BETTER OFF IF YOU DID.

TAKA-DA!

WELL, I WOULD. I WANTED TO WALK HOME WITH HER.

YOU TOO, NISHIMURA?!

JUST FORGET ABOUT ME. I THINK YOU'D BE BETTER OFF IF YOU DID.

TAKA-DA!

WELL, I WOULD. I WANTED TO WALK HOME WITH HER.

YOU TOO, NISHIMURA?!

JUST FORGET ABOUT ME. I THINK YOU'D BE BETTER OFF IF YOU DID.

TAKA-DA!

WELL, I WOULD. I WANTED TO WALK HOME WITH HER.

YOU TOO, NISHIMURA?!

JUST FORGET ABOUT ME. I THINK YOU'D BE BETTER OFF IF YOU DID.

TAKA-DA!

WELL, I WOULD. I WANTED TO WALK HOME WITH HER.



SEE?
SHE
SAYS
SHE'S
FINE
ON HER
OWN.

I'M
FINE
ON MY
OWN.

SMIRK
SMIRK

JOIN
US,
NEW
KID!

I'M
USED
TO IT.



I'M NOT
REALLY
MESSING
AROUND,
THOUGH.

BUT IF YOU'RE
GONNA BE LIKE
THAT, THEN WHAT
ABOUT NISHIMURA?!
SHE'S JUST A
REGULAR HUMAN,
AIN'T SHE?!

WHY IS
THAT
DISAP-
POINTING
?!
U U

BUT
YOU'RE
JUST A
REGULAR
HUMAN...

STOP
MESSIN'
AROUND!

THAT'S
WHAT
YOU'VE
BEEN
SAYING
ALL THIS
TIME.

NISHI-
MURA'S
A GRIM
REAPER,
ISN'T
SHE?



WHAT'S
WRONG?



BECAUSE
SHE'S SO
COOL AND
AWESOME,
LIKE A
GRIM
REAPER!

I
THINK
SHE IS
TOO!

GLEE
OHIGE
EAM

...I WANT
TO GET TO
KNOW HER
BETTER!

THAT'S
WHY...





B-BUT I
MIGHT NOT
BE A GRIM
REAPER,
YOU
KNOW?

I'M
PROBABLY
JUST SOME
GIRL WITH
KIND OF
MEAN-
LOOKING
EYES.



HUH?
NISHIMURA?



THEY'RE
ULTRA-
COOL.

BUT I
LOVE
THOSE
EYES OF
YOURS.

WHAT?
REALLY?



YOU'RE
SO COOL,
NISHI-
MURA!

OH
BOY,
OH
BOY!

O-O-KAY...
THANKS...



BECAUSE
YOU'RE
SUPER
AMAZING,
NISHIMURA.







LET'S WALK
HOME AGAIN
TOMORROW,
NISHIMURA!

S-
SURRRRE...

2-2-2
2-2-2



I'LL
LET GO
IF YOU
DON'T
WANT
ME TO,
THOUGH.

BECAUSE
RUMOR HAS IT
THAT I'LL BE
BLESSED WITH
A POWERFUL
"CURSE" IF I
TOUCH YOU.

I GUESS
I DON'T
MIND...

HE'S SERIOUS.



BUT...

WH-WHY
ARE YOU
HOLDING MY
HAND?

**MY CLUELESS
FIRST FRIEND**





I'M A
TRANSFER
STUDENT...

THIS
IS MY
CLASS-
MATE
NISHI-
MURA.

THE GRIM
REAPER
WAS USING
THIS BROOM
YESTERDAY!

CHATTER
CHATTER



...SO I
DON'T
KNOW WHY
THAT IS.

Chapter
3

FOR SOME
REASON,
EVERYONE
CALLS HER
"THE GRIM
REAPER."

OH
CRAP!
I'M
CURSED
NOW!

HA
HA
HA

HER
CURSE'LL
MAKE
THE
CURRY
TASTE
BAD!



JOLT

〇〇〇

WHOA



AW,
MAAAAN!
THE GRIM
REAPER'S
ON
LUNCH
DUTY
TODAY?!

...SO
COOL!

I'M NOT
SURE WHY,
BUT EVERYONE
FEARS HER
AS "THE GRIM
REAPER," AND
THAT NICK-
NAME IS...

SMILE

SMILE

WH-
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
TAKADA?



SNICKER
SNICKER

OF COURSE
IT WILL! I
MEAN, YOU'RE
GETTING
CURRY FROM
THAT GRIM
REAPER,
RIGHT?

THE
NEW KID
DOESN'T
KNOW?

HUH?
SO THE
CURRY'LL
TASTE
BAD IF
NISHIMURA'S
ON LUNCH
DUTY?

DANG IT...I
WAS LOOKING
FORWARD TO
CURRY TODAY
TOO. NOW IT'S
ALL CURSED.

BOOO
BOOO

WHY DO
I HAVE TO
GIVE YOU MY
CURRY?!

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?
YOU DON'T
NEED IT,
DO YOU?

WHY
?!
U
U

EH
HEH

EH
HEH

OOH,
OOH, SO
DOES
THAT
MEAN IT
WOULD
BE
OKAY...

...IF I
HAD YOUR
CURRY,
KITAGAWA?

EVERYONE
SAYS THEY
DON'T
WANT TO
EAT CURRY
FROM
MS. GRIM
REAPER!

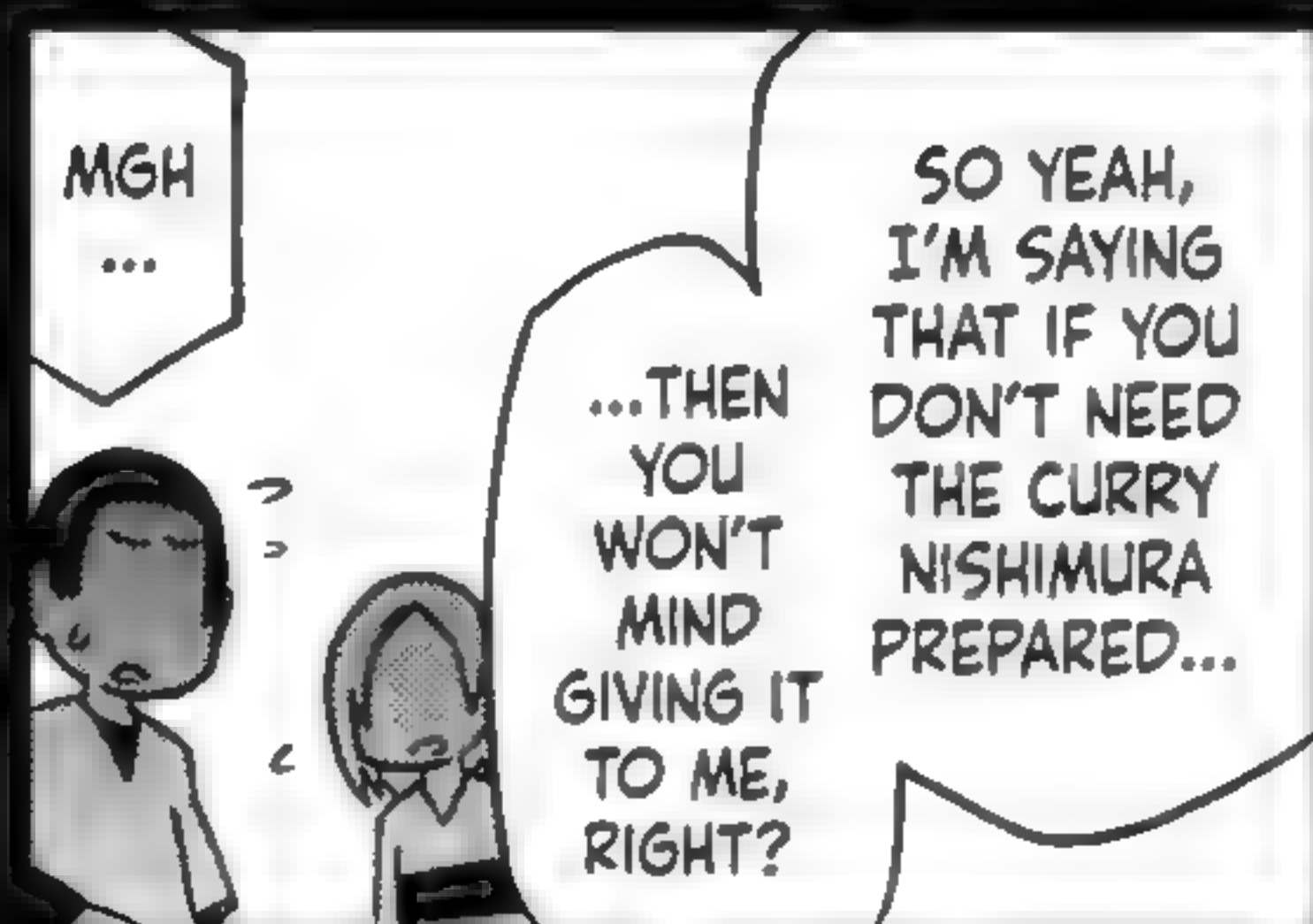
Y-YUP!
SHE'S
A GRIM
REAPER,
YOU
KNOW?! ?

YOU DON'T
WANT THE
CURRY
NISHIMURA
SERVED YOU,
RIGHT?

SINCE IT'S
CURSED.



I WANT
TO EAT A
NICE BIG
HELPING OF
NISHIMURA'S
CURRY!



MGH
...

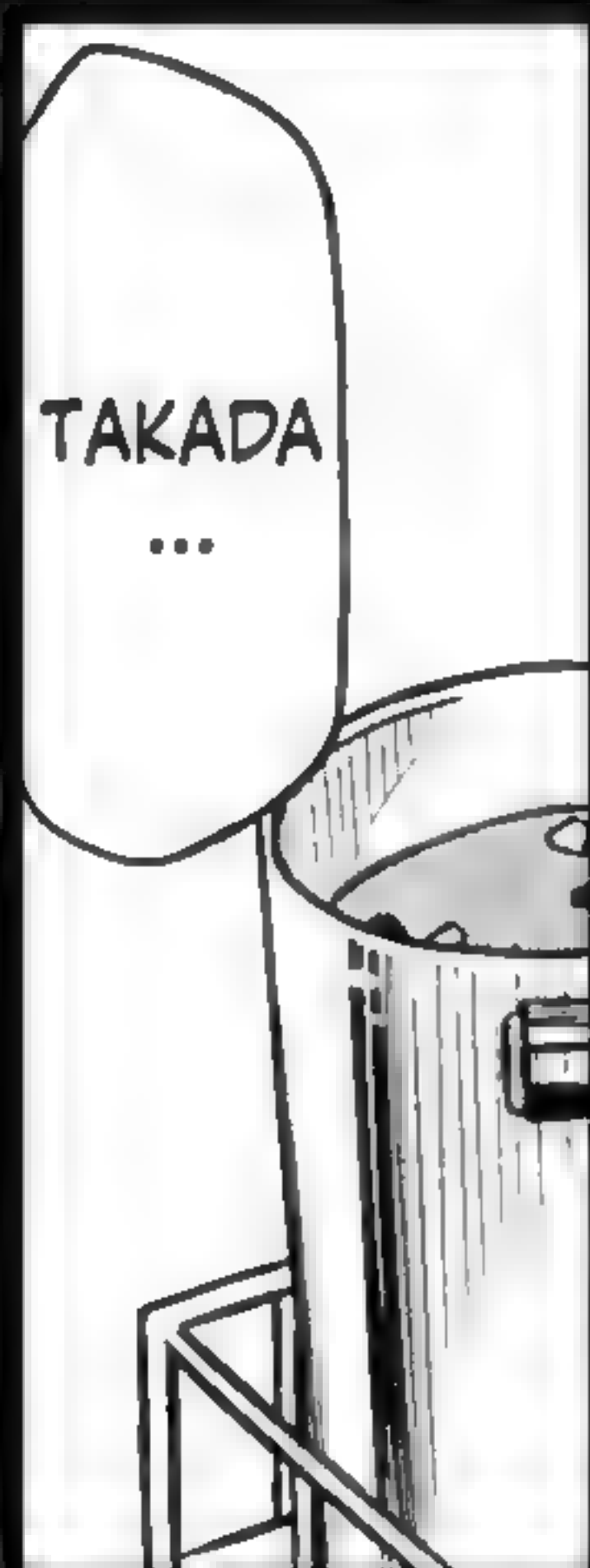
...THEN
YOU
WON'T
MIND
GIVING IT
TO ME,
RIGHT?

SO YEAH,
I'M SAYING
THAT IF YOU
DON'T NEED
THE CURRY
NISHIMURA
PREPARED...



WHAT
THE
HECK'S
A DARK-
EATER?!

AND IF I
EAT HER CURSE
WITH THAT, I'LL
TOTALLY BECOME
A DARKEATER
SOMEDAY!



TAKADA
...



KITAGAWA
SURE IS
A FUNNY
KID.

WHY
WOULD HE
COMPLAIN
IF HE WAS
GOING
TO EAT IT
ANYWAY?

HEE
HEE.



WHO
SAID I'D
GIVE YOU
ANYTHING,
YA BLOCK-
HEAD?!

WHAAAAT
?!

I-I
DIDN'T
SAY NO
ONE
EATS IT,
DID I?!



Chapter

4

I
WONDER
WHY NO
ONE USES
THIS
BROOM.

〇〇〇



YOU'D
BETTER NOT
TOUCH IT
EITHER.
NOT UNLESS
YOU WANT
TO GET
BULLIED.

EVERYONE
SAYS YOU'LL
CATCH A
"CURSE" IF
YOU TOUCH
MS. GRIM
REAPER.

BECAUSE
I ALWAYS
USE IT.

IF YOU
DO, THE
OTHERS WILL
TEASE YOU
AND SHOUT
A BUNCH OF
CHILDISH
THINGS AT
YOU, LIKE,
"I CAST
BARRIER!"

GLARE

SO IT'S
LIKE THE
DEMON
LANCE
DARK
DANCER!

THAT'S
SO
COOL!



IT'S JET'S
[AN ANIME
CHARACTER'S]
LANCE.
IT CURSES
WHOEVER
WIELDS IT.

?!?!
....

WHAT
THE
HECK IS
THAT?!




TH-THERE
ARE OTHERS,
THOUGH...

YAAAY

THAT'S
SO
COOL,
NISHI-
MURA.

IT'S
AMAZING
THAT YOU
CAN HANDLE
DARK
DANCER.





**WOW!
IT'S LIKE
THE
KILLER
DIABOLOS
BULLET!**


PEOPLE
SAY YOU'LL
GET
CURSED IF
YOU TOUCH
THIS TOO.



**OH BOY!
IT'S LIKE
THE DEMON
BLADE
SNAKE,
WHICH
DESTROYS
ITS OWN
WIELDER!**

AND
THIS...

GLANCE



I HAD
NO IDEA
YOU COULD
CREATE
SO MANY
CURSED
ITEMS...

YOU
ROCK,
NISHI-
MURA!

WOW
WOW
WOW



WHOOOA!
IT EVEN
APPLIES
TO LIVING
THINGS?!

YOU
HAVE A
BUNCH OF
FAMILIARS!

THESE
LITTLE
GUYS
TOO.



THE FUN
NEVER
STOPS
WHENEVER
I'M WITH
YOU,
NISHIMURA!

YEAH, I'M
HAVING
SOO MUCH
FUN!

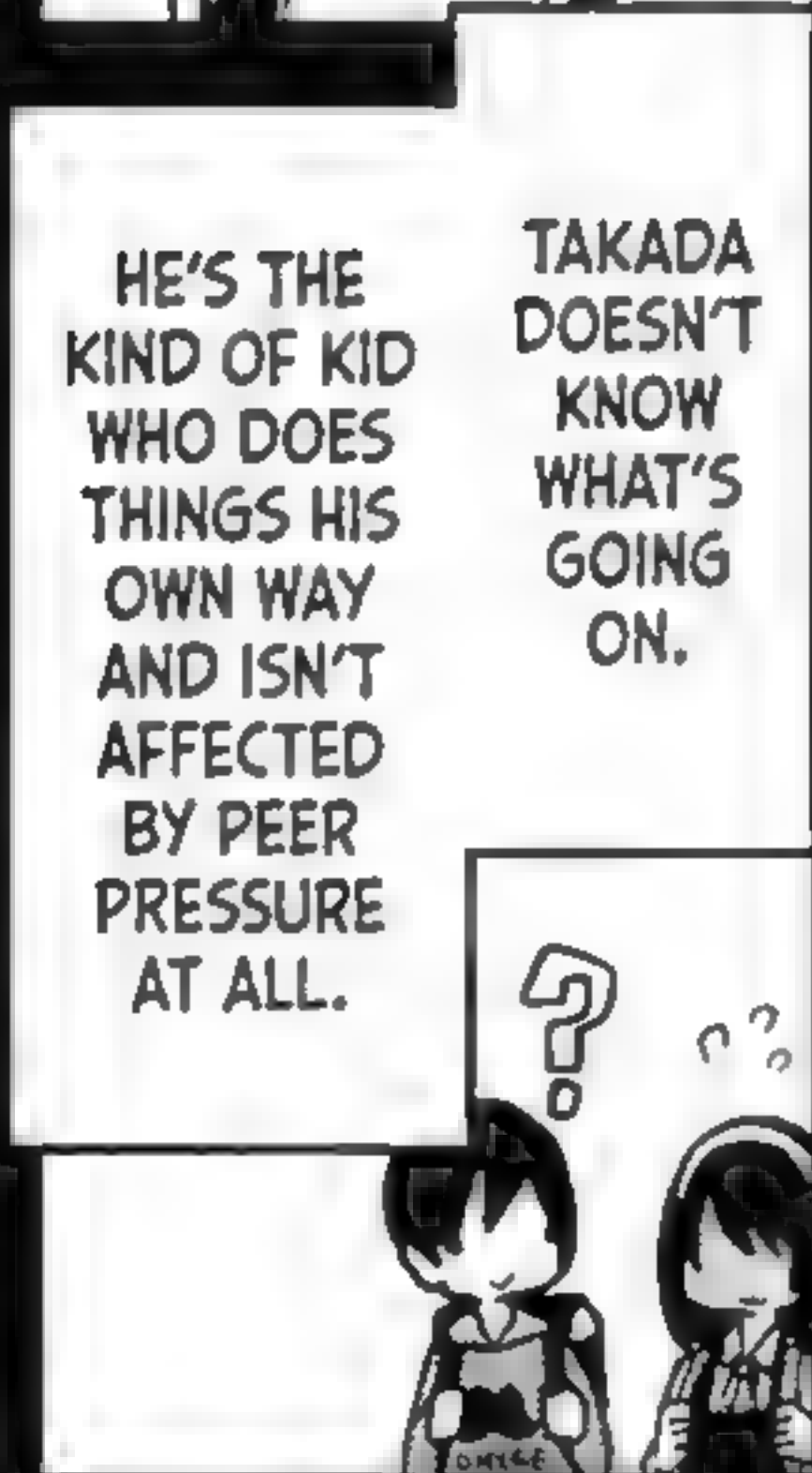
W
A
H
A
A
A

YOU
SEEM
TO BE
ENJOYING
THIS,
TAKADA.



"NISHIMURA'S
GOT SUCH A GRIM
REAPER VIBE."

"I CAST
BARRIER!
BARRIER!"



HE'S THE
KIND OF KID
WHO DOES
THINGS HIS
OWN WAY
AND ISN'T
AFFECTED
BY PEER
PRESSURE
AT ALL.

TAKADA
DOESN'T
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING
ON.

?

??



...I REALLY
MISS YOU
WHENEVER
YOU'RE
NOT
AROUND!

ACTUALLY
...



I GET
IT...

O-OKAY...

FOR
REAL!

YAAAY

PUSHY
PUSHY

...THINGS
AT
SCHOOL
GET SO
BORING!

IT'S
'CAUSE
WHEN
YOU'RE
NOT
AROUND...

AKANE.

Chapter
5

ARE YOU
ABLE TO
KEEP UP
WITH YOUR
STUDIES?

HOW'S
SCHOOL
BEEN
LATELY?

IT'S BEEN
THAT
WAY FOR
A WHILE
NOW.

I'VE
BEEN
LYING
TO MY
DAD.

THINGS
ARE FINE.
NOTHING
OUT OF THE
ORDINARY.

7

2





GOOD
MORNING,
NISHIMURA!

GLEAM



EH
HEH
HEH.

YEAH,
GUESS
I AM.

AAAAAH

M-MORNING,
TAKADA.

YOU'RE IN
A GOOD
MOOD
TODAY.



IT'S
SOMETHING
I'VE BEEN
WONDERING
ABOUT EVER
SINCE I
TRANSFERRED
HERE...

WH-WHAT
IS IT?

ANYWAY,
NISHI-
MURA,

THERE'S
SOMETHING
I HAVE TO
ASK YOU.

FLASH

CAN EVERYONE IN OUR CLASS...

...USE BARRIER SPELLS?

**...USE
BARRIER
SPELLS?**

AND THEY SAY YOU WON'T CATCH THE CURSE IF YOU PUT UP A "BARRIER."

OH! YEAH...

OH!
YEAH...

IT'S
JUST THAT
EVERYONE
KEEPS SAYING
"BARRIER,
BARRIER" AND
STUFF...

**BARRIER
SPELLS...**

STUFF...

GAK

BZZT

F

BZZT

F

GAK

GAK

F

GAK

OH
TAKADA,
THAT'S...

...ONE
OF THEIR
GAMES.

G U A R D M

"I CAST
BARRIER!
BARRIER!"

"YOU'LL
CATCH A
CURSE IF
YOU GET
NEAR
THE GRIM
REAPER!"

OKAY!
OKAY!
OKAY!

WAIT A
SECOND,
NISHIMURA.

SAYING THAT
YOU WON'T
CATCH THE
GRIM REAPER'S
CURSE AS LONG
AS YOU PUT UP
A BARRIER IS
JUST SILLY.

IT'S
NON-
SENSE.

TAKADA?

G
U
L
P

I THINK
IT'S AMAZING
THAT PEOPLE
ARE PUTTING
UP BARRIERS
FOR FUN!



I-IS
IT?

I MEAN,
BARRIER'S
PROBABLY...
...A
PRETTY
DIFFICULT
SPELL,
RIGHT?



...THAT
YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
TRYING TO
PUT UP A
BARRIER?!

TAKADA,
ARE YOU
SAYING...

YEAH,
OF
COURSE.



YOU
TRIED IT
YOUR-
SELF?!

GMF

I'VE TRIED
DOING IT
MYSELF
COUNTLESS
TIMES AND
COULD
NEVER PULL
IT OFF...



WAIT,
WAIT,
NO...

I
THINK IT'S
MORE OF
A FEELING
THAN
ANYTHING
ELSE...

HEH HEH HEH
I'VE BEEN
WONDERING
HOW
EVERYONE'S
BEEN PUTTING
THEM UP...



BUT AT
MY LAST
SCHOOL...

...WE DIDN'T
HAVE PEOPLE
WHO COULD
AND COULDN'T
PUT UP
BARRIERS,
YOU KNOW?



I SEE...



WE WERE
PRETTY
MUCH ALL
FRIENDS
WITH EACH
OTHER.

THAT'S
SUPER
SMALL!



THEY
SURE
DID!

THERE
WERE ONLY
30 KIDS IN
THE WHOLE
SCHOOL.



EVERYONE
MUST'VE
GOTTEN
ALONG
REALLY WELL
THEN.



IT
WOULD
BE SO
COOL IF I
COULD.

BUT I REALLY
WOULD LIKE
TO TRY USING
BARRIER.

FRIENDS...



HOLD ON,
NOW AURAS
ARE PART
OF THIS?

WITH
YOUR
AURA AND
STUFF!

W
W
W
W
W

I GUESS
YOU HAVE TO
IMAGINE A
WALL IN FRONT
OF YOU OR
SOMETHING...



BECAUSE
BARRIER
BLOCKS
THE GRIM
REAPER'S
CURSE.

NISHI-
MURA...



HUH?
WHY'S
THAT?

SHE'S THE TYPE
WHO TRIES TO GO
WITH THE FLOW.

BUT...

...IF YOU
GAIN THE
ABILITY TO
PUT UP A
BARRIER, NO
ONE WILL
TEASE YOU
ANYMORE,
EVEN IF YOU
TALK TO ME.





'CAUSE
WE'RE
FRIENDS.



"AKANE."



F...

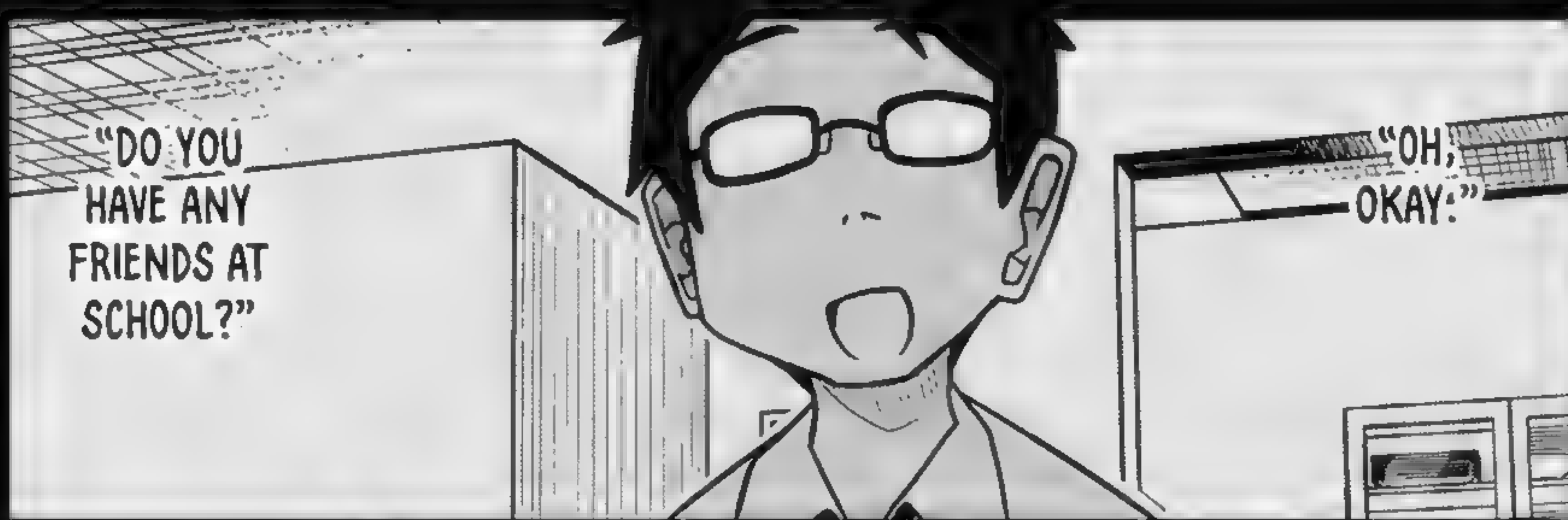
FRIENDS
...?



"THINGS
ARE FINE.
NOTHING
OUT OF THE
ORDINARY."

RSTL
#

"HOW'S
SCHOOL
BEEN
LATELY?"



"DO YOU
HAVE ANY
FRIENDS AT
SCHOOL?"

"OH,
OKAY:"



"I DO
HAVE A
FRIEND."

"NO, IT'S
NOTHING."

TAK
+ +



IT'S BEEN
THAT
WAY FOR
A WHILE
NOW.

I'VE BEEN
LYING TO
MY DAD.

"IS
SOMETHING
THE MATTER,
AKANE?"







GLARE

NISHIMURA
WAS PUSHED
INTO TAKING
THE ROLE
OF THE EVIL
WITCH IN HER
CLASS PLAY.

I-IS
SOMETHING
WRONG,
TAKADA?

A WITCH...
A WITCH,
HUH...

WHISPER
WHISPER

SNICKER
SNICKER

STARE

TAKADA'S
STILL
CLUELESS.

OH
WOW...

THE REASON
THEY GAVE
ME WAS,
"IT'S KIND OF
CREEPY, SO
IT'S A GOOD
MATCH FOR
YOU."

?!!

I THINK
YOU LOOK
WAY TOO
CUTE,
NISHI-
MURA.

PO-
Z

THAT'S
NISHIMURA
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT!
NISHIMURA!!

MS. GRIM
REAPER!

BUZZ

WHOA,
WHOA!
WHAT'RE
YOU
SAYING,
NEW
KID?!

I MEAN, REAL
WITCHES ARE
MUCH SCARIER,
AND THEY'RE OLD
LADIES, RIGHT?
THEY'RE LIKE 100
YEARS OLD.

THEY MAKE
WEIRD
POTIONS AND
GOBBLE UP
VILLAGE KIDS
AND STUFF
TOO.

WHAT
THE HECK,
TAKADA?!

WHAT'RE
YOU
SAYING?!

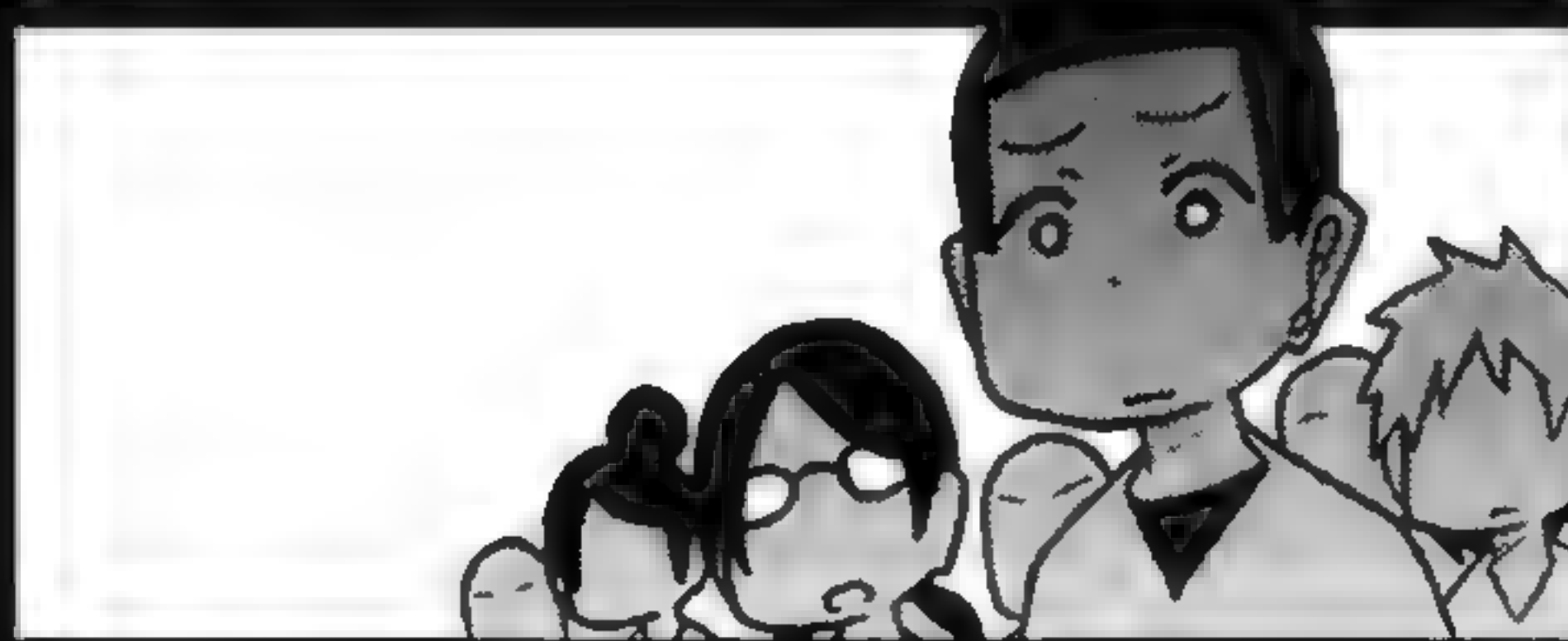
S-
G

NONE OF
YOU KNOW
THE TRUE
TERROR OF
WITCHES...

NOT THIS
CUTESY
COSTUME
YOU GOT
HERE!

ZWASH!

SO THE
PERSON
PLAYING
THE WITCH
HAS TO
BE MUCH
MORE
TERRIFY-
ING!



I JUST THREW
IT TOGETHER
FOR NISHIMURA
USING SOME
STAINED SPARE
FABRIC.

TAKADA,
I DIDN'T
EXACTLY
MAKE IT TO
LOOK CUTE.

SNICHER
SNICHER

O-OH,
YOU MEANT
THE
COSTUME!

SO IT
LOOKS
CUTER THAN
WHAT YOU
IMAGINE A
WITCH TO
BE? IS
THAT IT?

WAIT...
HE'S
TALKING
ABOUT THE
COSTUME?

THAT'S
GREAT,
ISN'T IT,
NISHI-
MURA?

EVERY-
ONE'S
SAYING
IT'S A
ROLE
THAT
"LOOKS
GOOD"
ON YOU
TOO.

!!

WELL,
NISHIMURA
JUST WEARS
IT WELL,
AND I THINK
SHE LOOKS
CUTE IN IT.

UH...

Y-
YEAH...

O-O-KAY...
THANKS...

WITH THE
WAY YOU
LOOK NOW,
**YOU'RE
JUST WAY
TOO CUTE!**

**YOU CAN
DO IT!**

BUT SINCE
YOU WON'T
LOOK SCARY
AT ALL AS
THE WITCH,
YOU CAN
MAKE UP FOR
IT WITH YOUR
ACTING!

HEY,
HEY...

SO YOU KNOW
HOW TAKADA
WENT TO THE
NURSE'S OFFICE
DURING FOURTH-
PERIOD P.E.?

WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER

WELL, I'M
PRETTY SURE
IT'S BECAUSE
OF THE GRIM
REAPER'S
CURSE.

I MEAN,
TAKADA'S
ALWAYS WITH
NISHIMURA!

YEAH,
I WAS
THINKING
THE
SAME!

WHAT A
BUNCH
OF NON-
SENSE.

A
CURSE...

GLARE

NURSE





...NOT HERE
BECAUSE I'M
WORRIED AND
WANT TO SEE
HOW HE'S
DOING!

NURSE

I'M
DEFINITELY...



U

....!

YOU'LL
CATCH A
CURSE
IF YOU
GET NEAR
THE GRIM
REAPER!

I CAN'T
GO HOME
WITHOUT
GIVING
THESE TO
HIM.

NURSE

I
JUST...

...CAME TO
DELIVER THE
WORKSHEETS
TAKADA
FORGOT
TO PICK UP.
THAT'S ALL.

SHAKE



SHAKE

PEEK



I'M
SORRY.

OH...
I...



MOVE
IT.

Nyop



SCHOOL'S
OVER AND
HE'S STILL
ASLEEP. I
WONDER
IF HE'S ALL
RIGHT.



HUH. YOU
ACTUALLY
LOOK
FINE.

I
BROUGHT
YOUR
SHARE OF
CUSTARD
FROM
LUNCH.



OH.



NURSE

KARIN

YO,
TAKA-
DAAAA!

EH HEH HEH.
YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO,
BUT THANKS,
HINO.

HE BEAT
ME TO IT.



!!



WE'RE
BEST
BUDS,
AFTER
ALL!

NO
PROB.



...BARELY
SETTLED INTO
THIS SCHOOL
AND HE'S
ALREADY BEST
FRIENDS WITH
HINO!

OH WOW!
TAKADA'S
...





I SHOULD
PROBABLY
KEEP FROM
GETTING IN
THE MIDDLE
OF THAT.



TAKADA
SEEMS
TO BE
ENJOYING
HIMSELF
TOO.



"SEEMS LIKE HE
WAS BROUGHT
TO THE NURSE'S
OFFICE AFTER
TAKING A HIT
FOR THE GRIM
REAPER."



"I WONDER
IF THE
NEW KID'S
OKAY."

IF I WENT
TO SEE HOW
HE'S
DOING...

I'LL
JUST GIVE
TAKADA THE
WORKSHEET
AND LEAVE.

HINO'S
HERE
TODAY
ANYWAY...



...I'M SURE
ANOTHER
WEIRD
RUMOR
WOULD GET
STARTED.




...I HAVEN'T
REALLY
SPOKEN TO
ANYONE
TODAY.

SPEAKING
OF...

IT FEELS
KIND OF
ODD.





EVEN
THOUGH THIS
WAS NORMAL
FOR ME UNTIL
RECENTLY.



YEAH...
EVEN
DESPITE
THAT.

MRMR

MRMR



I'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR SO
LONG!

WHY
DIDN'T YOU
COME ALL
THIS TIME,
NISHIMURA
?!

WHAAAT
?!

WAGH

GHH

あ

あ

HINO

H-
HINO!



AAAH

Do

I WAS
REALLY
HOPING
YOU'D HAVE
COME BY
NOW!

HINO
TOLD ME
YOU WERE
WAITING
OUT IN THE
HALLWAY
AS HE WAS
LEAVING.

HUH?
REALLY?

ZZZ

I JUST
CAME HERE
TO HAND
YOU YOUR
WORKSHEET
FOR CLASS...

Y-YOU
GOT IT ALL
WRONG!

THAT'S
JUST A
REGULAR
INJURY,
TAKADA.

AW, I
WANTED TO
BRAG TO
YOU ABOUT
MY SWEET
THIRD EYE...

I ONLY
SLEPT TILL
AFTER
SCHOOL
BECAUSE I
WAS SLEEPY.
AH HA HA.

TOTALLY.
IT WASN'T A
BIG DEAL.

ARE YOU
OKAY?

THERE'S
A WATER
COOLER
IN THERE!

LET'S TALK
INSIDE THE
NURSE'S
OFFICE UNTIL
MY MOM
GETS HERE!

PHEW

YAAAY

IF I GO
IN THERE
ALONE
WITH YOU,
PEOPLE
MIGHT
TALK...



BUT...

...



WELL
...
LIKE...



TALK?
LIKE A
RUMOR?
WHAT KIND?

?

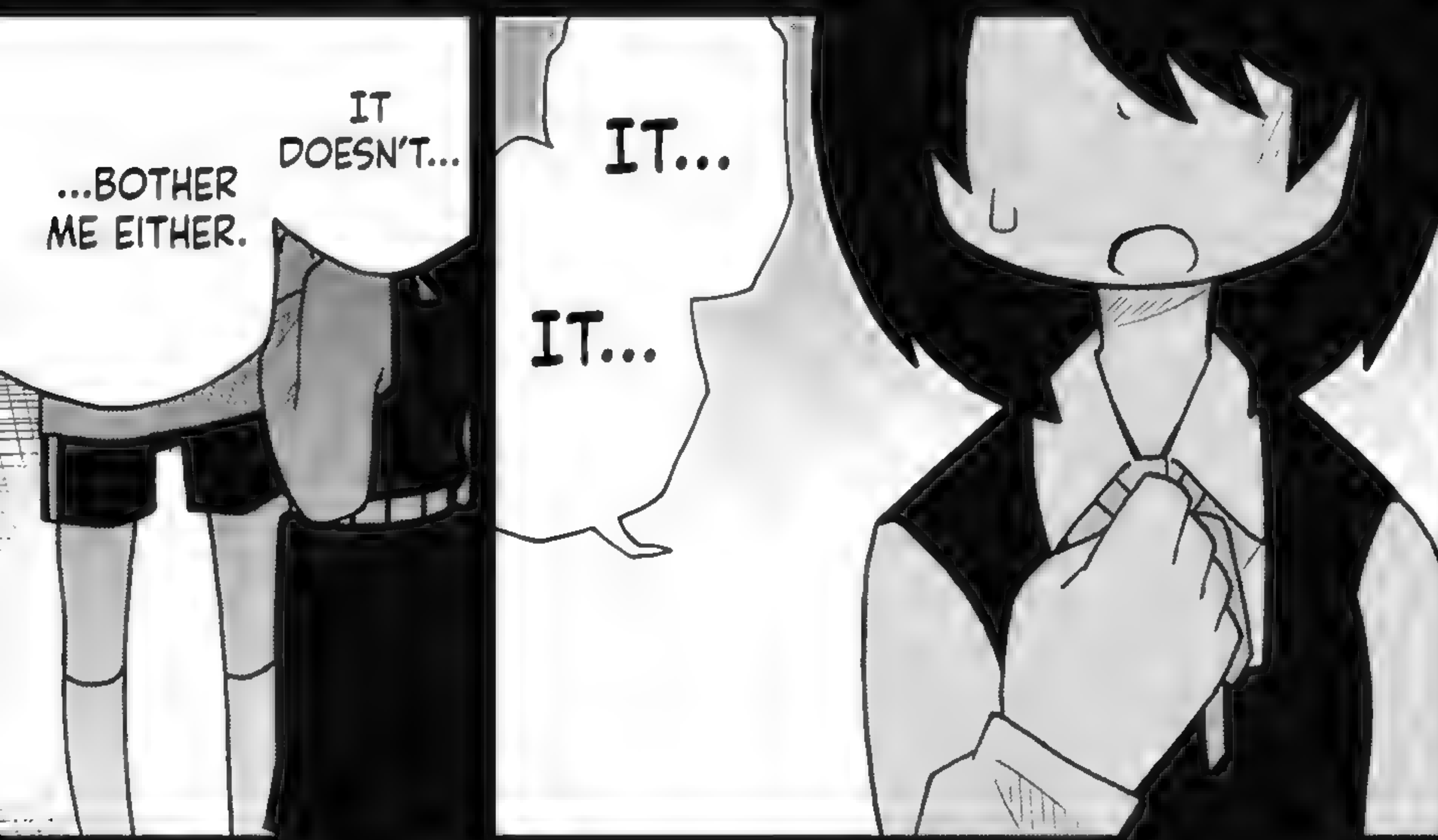
OH, I
SEE.



P-PEOPLE
MIGHT SAY
YOU'RE BEING
DOUBLE
CURSED BY
THE GRIM
REAPER!

O-O-OR
OTHER
RUMORS
ABOUT HOW
UNLUCKY
YOU ARE!

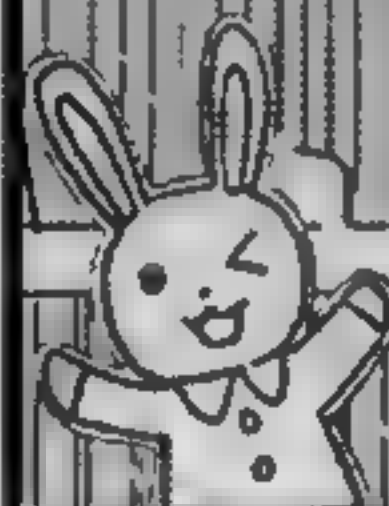
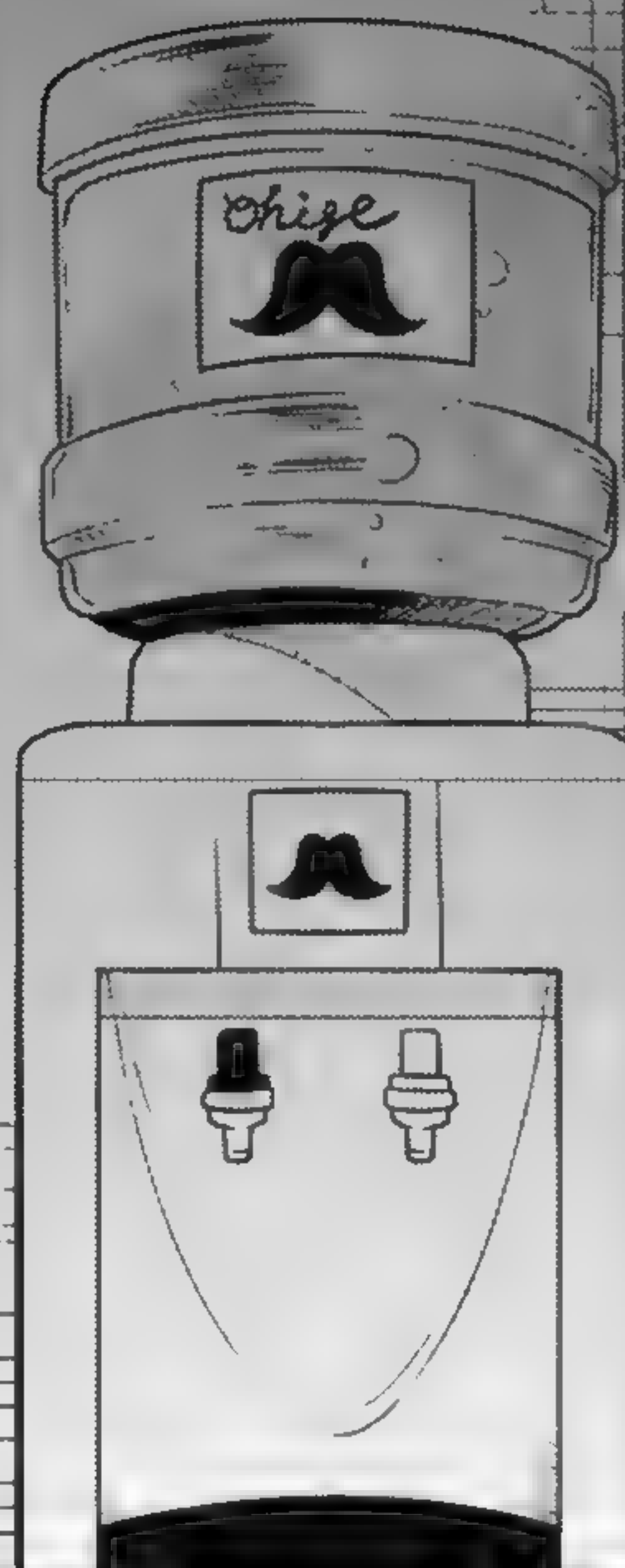




MY FIRST
FRIEND...
IS TOTALLY
CLUELESS.

NURSE

BUT I'M
HAPPY
NOW.



IT'S
GREAT
THAT WE
COULD TALK
A BUNCH
BEFORE
LEAVING
SCHOOL.

BECAUSE
I HADN'T
REALLY
TALKED TO
ANYONE
TODAY.

I'M
GLAD
YOU
CAME,
NISHI-
MURA.

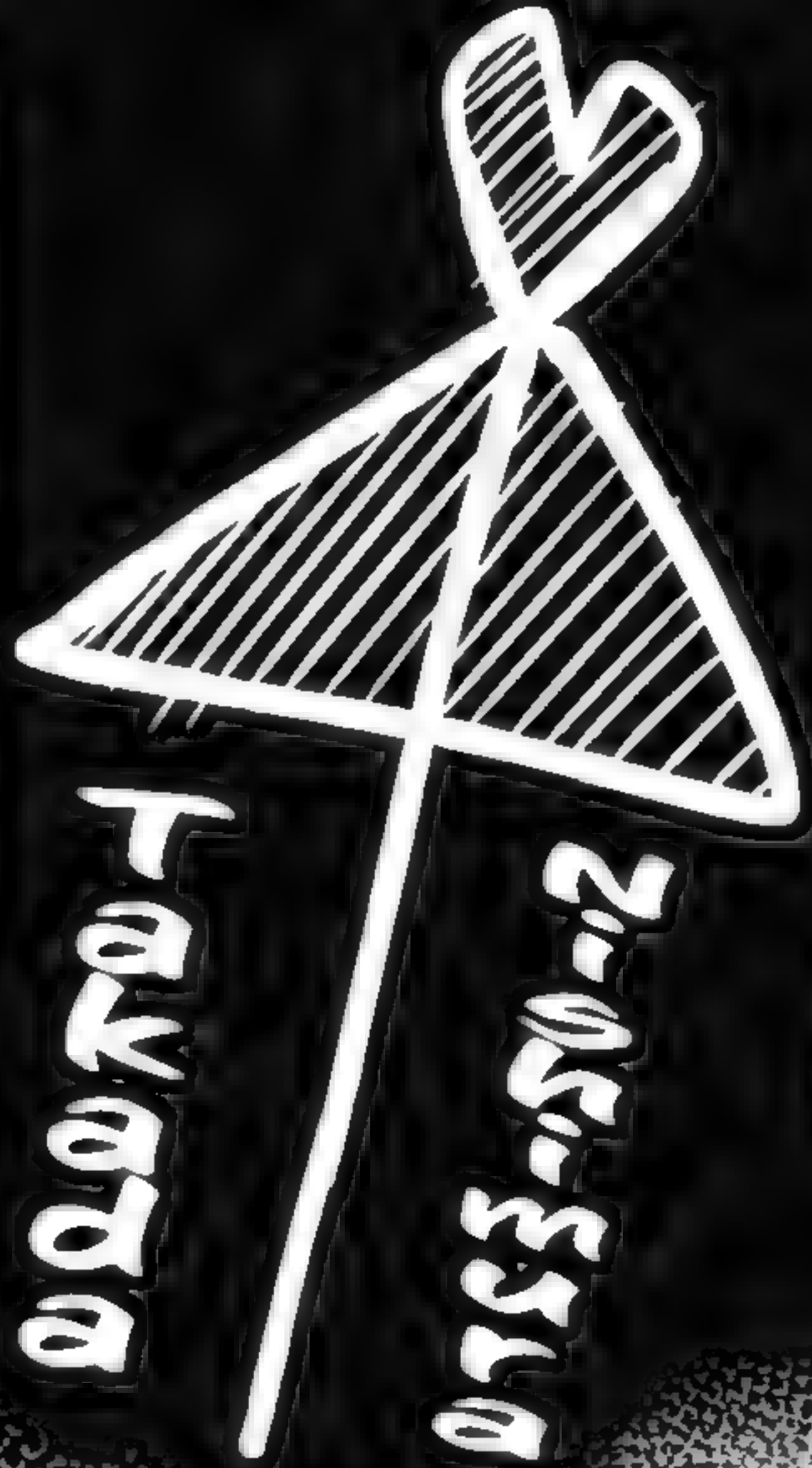


**BECAUSE
I REALLY
ENJOY
TALKING
TO YOU,
NISHIMURA!**





AND
FOR SOME
REASON,
EVERYONE
CALLS HER
"THE GRIM
REAPER."



Mr. &
Mrs.
Grim
Reaper

I HAVE A
CLASSMATE
NAMED
NISHIMURA.

Chapter

8



SHIRK
SHIRK
YEAH...
SORRY,
TAKADA.

WHAT'S
THIS?



I'M SORRY
YOU GOT
MIXED UP
IN THIS. IT
MUST BE
ANNOYING...

THEY
PROBABLY
DID THIS
JUST TO
TEASE ME.



WAHOOOO!



I-IS IT COOL?

"MR. AND MRS. GRIM REAPER!"

HUH? 'CAUSE IT'S SUPER COOL, WHY ELSE?!

WH-WHY ARE YOU SO HAPPY?



SO I'M STILL NOT A GRIM REAPER?

R-REALLY?

AWW...

S-SORRY.



UH, I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE...

EH HEH HEH!

AHH, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS! THIS MUST MEAN THEY FINALLY SEE ME AS A GRIM REAPER!



IF
WE HAD
KIDS...

...MAYBE
THEY
WOULD
GET YOUR
GRIM
REAPER
POWERS.



OH,
THEN...

...WHAT
ABOUT
OUR
KIDS?



MY
DREAMS
ARE ONLY
GETTING
BIGGER!

I MEAN,
MR. AND
MRS.
GRIM
REAPER!
SO
COOL!

HUH?
HOW
SO?

TAKADA,
SOMETIMES
YOU'RE SO
PURE IT'S
ALMOST
BLINDING.

THAT'D BE
PRETTY COOL,
HUH! A HALF
HUMAN, HALF
DEMON!

I GUESS THE
CHILD OF A
HUMAN AND A
GRIM REAPER
WOULD BE A
HALF HUMAN,
HALF DEMON,
RIGHT?



BUT...



UH,
WOULD IT,
THOUGH?
I'M NOT
SO SURE...



PUSHY

PUSHY



WH-WHY
DO WE
GOTTA GET
INVOLVED?!

...THEN
WE'LL ALL
COME
UP WITH
ANOTHER
NICKNAME!

IF YOU
DON'T LIKE
US BEING
CALLED "MR.
AND MRS.
GRIM
REAPER"...



"MR.
AND
MRS.
GRIM
REAPER"
IT IS
THEN!
WE'RE
UNBEAT-
ABLE!

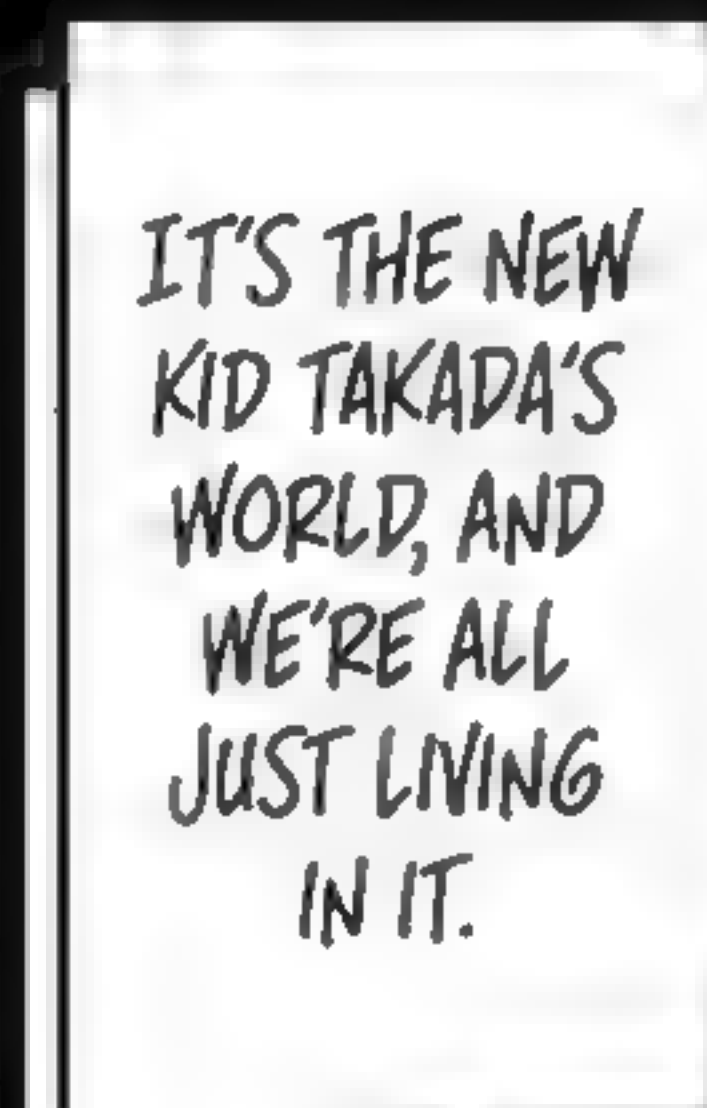
YEA

YOU DON'T
REALLY NEED
TO GO OUT
OF YOUR WAY
TO THINK OF
ANOTHER
NAME...

WELL, YOU
ALL CAME
UP WITH
"MR. AND
MRS. GRIM
REAPER,"
DIDN'T
YOU?

HOW
SHOULD WE
DO THIS,
NISHIMURA?

OH,
ER...



IT'S THE NEW
KID TAKADA'S
WORLD, AND
WE'RE ALL
JUST LIVING
IN IT.



BUT IT
TURNED
OUT TO BE
SOMETHING
HE LIKED...

WE WERE
TRYING
TO MAKE
FUN OF
THEM...



HRMM...

TAKADA'S
OLDER
SISTER
(FIRST-YEAR
IN MIDDLE
SCHOOL).



Chapter

9

WHO'S
THIS
GIRL?!
WHO IS
SHE TO
YOU?

OHH,
TAIYO!

*TAIYO IS
TAKADA'S
FIRST
NAME.

I'M
BACK!

MY FIFTH-
GRADE
BROTHER
BROUGHT A
GIRL HOME
WITH HIM...

WAIT,
WHAT?
TAIYO
...?!

BY
"DEAR-
EST,"
DO YOU
MEAN...

!!

THIS IS MY
CLASSMATE,
NISHIMURA!

SHE'S MY
DEAREST,
SPECIAL
FRIEND!



MY, MY!
NISHIMURA'S
EMBAR-
RASSED.
THAT'S
SO...

...
CUTE!

SWOON
3/

W-WE'RE
JUST
REGULAR
FRIENDS!

SHAKE!!

UH...
UM...

SHAKE!!



OH HH,
SEEING HER
GET ALL
FLUSTERED
IS JUST...
D'AWW!

GRIN
3/

REALLY!
WE'RE JUST
FRIENDS...

THANKS FOR
TAKING CARE
OF OUR TAIYO,
NISHIMURA.



THANKS,
SIS.

?

TAIYO
DOESN'T
REALLY
GET IT.



WAY
TO GO,
TAIYO!

WHAT DO WE
HAVE HERE?
HOLDING
HANDS, ARE
YOU?

FWUp



O-
OKAY.

LET'S PLAY
VIDEO
GAMES IN
THE LIVING
ROOM,
NISHIMURA!

TA-
TAIYO
?!

...I REALLY
FEEL LIKE
I'M BEING
CURSED.

WHEN I'M
HOLDING
HANDS WITH
NISHIMURA...

IT FEELS
LIKE SHE'S
GIVING ME
A BUNCH OF
HER POWER.

HUH?
BUT IT'S
TRUE.

GRAB

DON'T
SAY
YOU'RE
BEING
CURSED!

WH-WHAT'RE
YOU DOING?
YOU CAN'T
SAY THAT
TO THE GIRL
YOU'RE WITH!

YOU SAID
SOMETHING
WEIRD,
AND NOW
YOU'VE GONE
AND MADE
NISHIMURA
MAD!

SEE,
TAIYO?

TA-
TAIYOOO
!!

THAT'S
JUST WHAT
IT FEELS
LIKE TO YOU,
TAKADA. NO
ONE ASKED
YOU TO SAY
THAT.

I WASN'T
MAD.
THAT'S
JUST HOW
I ALWAYS
LOOK...

CORRECT
YOURSELF,
TAIYO! SAY
SOMETHING
NICE!

GLARE

**TA-
TAIYOOOO
!!**

I FEEL
REALLY
HAPPY WHEN
I'M HOLDING
HANDS WITH
NISHIMURA!

**NI-
NISHIMURA'S
SUPER RED
NOW!**

**SHE'S TOO
ADORABLE!
SHE MUST
BE HEAVEN-
SENT!**

ほっ
BLUSH

ほっ
BLUSH

ほっ
BLUSH

TH-
THANKS...

...CAN'T
GET
ENOUGH
OF SEEING
THIS
STUFF.

YOUR
BIG
SIS...

TAIYO...

HEH "

**MY CLUELESS
FIRST FRIEND**



SERIOUSLY?

4 MOOOOPE 4

I HAD
A FIGHT
WITH
NISHIMURA.

?

Chapter
10

WHAT'S
WRONG,
TAIYO?

IT ALL
STARTED
WHEN I WAS
BEING TIMED
FOR THE
50-METER
DASH IN P.E.
CLASS.

...MUST'VE
GOTTEN INTO
A FUNK
BECAUSE
I'VE MADE
ANOTHER
FRIEND.

NISHI-
MURA...

4 HMPH 4

SO EVEN
YOU TWO
FIGHT,
HUH.

YEAH
...





...AND
TALK TO
HER A
BUNCH
MORE
ABOUT ALL
KINDS OF
THINGS!

I WANT TO
SPEND MORE
TIME WITH
NISHIMURA...



JUST
TELL HER
EVERYTHING
YOU JUST
TOLD ME.

HOW DO I
FIX THINGS
WITH HER?

SIS...



OKAY!

BUT YOU
HAVE TO
PUT ALL
YOUR
FEELINGS
INTO IT
WHEN YOU
SAY IT!

ZZZ

IT'S
THAT
EASY?!

YUP.

?!
SIT
UP
DOP

THAT'S IT?
IT'LL FIX
THINGS IF
I JUST DO
THAT?!



THEY'RE
BACK TO
BEING
FRIENDS
AGAIN.

MORNING,
NISHIMURA!

SHE WAS
PROBABLY
JUST REALLY
HAPPY TO
HEAR THAT
FROM YOU,
SO YOU'RE
GOOD!

IS
THAT ALL
RIGHT?

UH, THAT...
MADE
NISHIMURA
CRY A
LITTLE...

...SO,
TODAY, I'M
GOING TO
HAVE ALL OF
YOU WRITE
A SUMMER-
BREAK PLAN.

ERR...
SUMMER
BREAK
IS NEXT
MONTH...

HA
HA
HA
HA

LET'S
ALL DO
FIREWORKS
TOGETHER!

MY
PLANS
FOR
SUMMER
BREAK...

LET'S
GO TO
THE POOL!
C'MON!

SUMMER
BREAK'S
ALMOST
HERE!

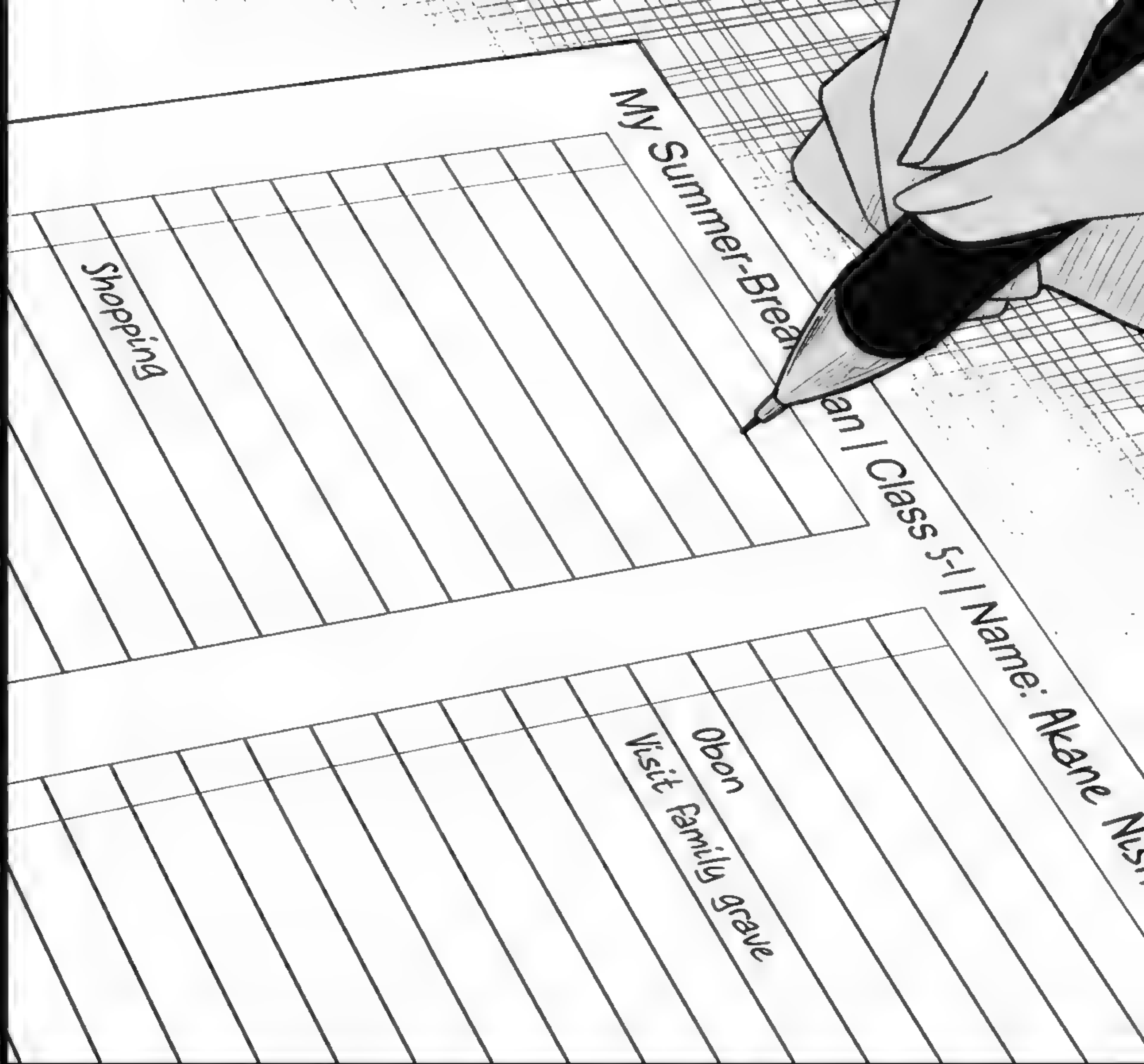
WHEN
WAS THE
SUMMER
FESTIVAL
AGAIN?

I'LL
VISIT MY
FAMILY
GRAVE
FOR
OBON

...AND
THEN
I'LL DO
SOME
SHOPPING
WITH MY
DAD...

TMP
Obon
Visit family grave















...
WHAT
KIND OF
PLANS DID
YOU COME
UP WITH
EXACTLY?!

THE
TEACHER
GOT MAD
AT ME
EARLIER.

HE WAS
ALL LIKE,
"YOUR
PLANS ARE
WAY TOO
RIDICU-
LOUS!"

S-
I-
G-
H



shoes
WHAT
FOR?

UM...
I'M SORRY
ABOUT
BEFORE,
TAKADA.



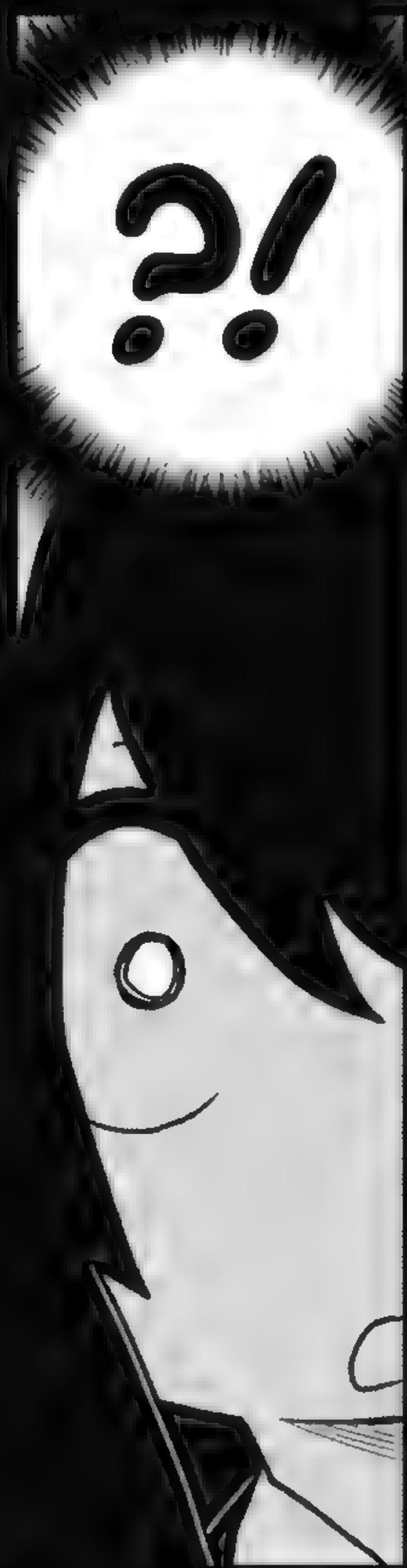
HECK
YEAH!

WOULD...
YOU LIKE
TO SEE
IT?



IT'S
JUST
THAT
I...

...DIDN'T
PUT MANY
PLANS
DOWN
ON MY
SCHEDULE.



THAT'S
GREAT!

YOU
WEREN'T
KIDDING!
IT'S
NEARLY
EMPTY!



OF
COURSE!
I
MEAN...

A-ARE YOU
INVITING ME
TO HANG
OUT WITH
YOU?



?!!

THAT
MEANS
WE CAN
HANG
OUT A
BUNCH!



LET'S
ALIGN
THINGS

...

OR
GOING
TO THE
CREEK!

HOW
ABOUT
YOU JOIN
ME FOR
EXPLOR-
ING?

AND A
SUMMER
FESTI-
VAL!

Break
Go to pool
Play soccer with friends
Eat shaved ice
Hang out at pool with sister
Go collect beetles
Eat a bunch of shaved ice
Explore the creek
Play video games for an hour every day

Hang out with friends
Eat a bunch of shaved ice and udon
Hang out with friends
Go
Fire
Read books

...SO
OUR
PLANS
MATCH!

THERE'S
JUST SO
MUCH STUFF
I WANT TO
DO AND SO
MANY PLACES
I WANT TO
GO TO!

IT'S
SUMMER
BREAK!



IF I'M
WITH YOU,
NISHI-
MURA...

...I'M
SURE I'LL
HAVE TONS
OF FUN
WHEREVER
WE GO!

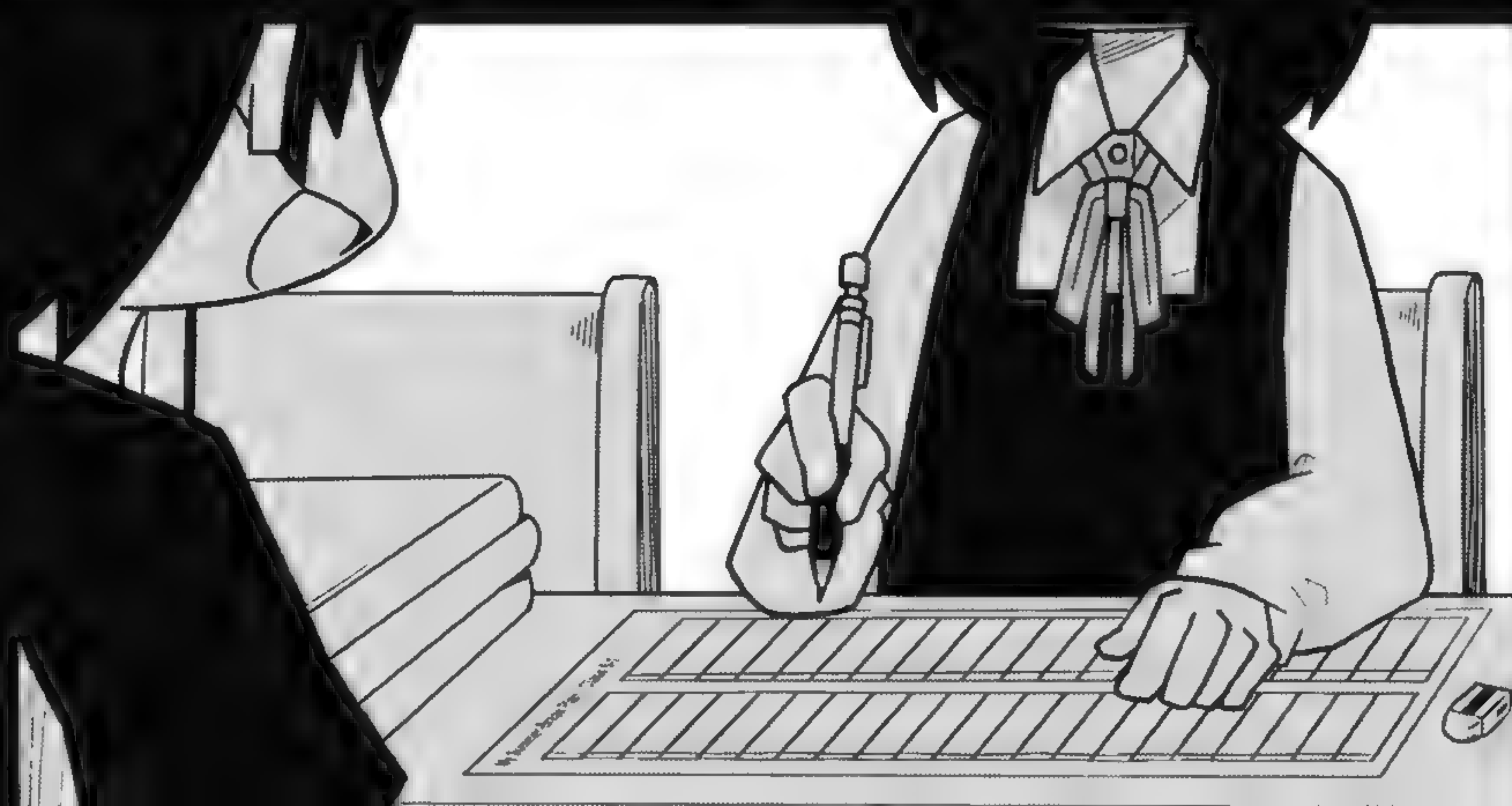








**MY FIRST
FRIEND...IS
TOTALLY
CLUELESS.**





My Summer-Break Plan | Class 5-1 | Name: Akane Nishimura

Go to pool	Pool & fireworks
Study	Pool
Eat shaved ice	Obon
Study	Visit family grave
Go hang out in the mountains	Treasure hunt
Study	Fireworks
Explore the creek	Library
Study	Study
Hang out with Takada	
Shopping	
Summer festival & fireworks	
Go to lazy river	
Study	
Go to movie	
Study	
Go to pool	
Hang out with Takada	

MY
SCHEDULE
...

My Summer-Break Plan | Class 5-1 | Name: Taiyo Takada

Go to pool	Go hang out at grandma's house
Play soccer with friends	Pool & fireworks
Eat shaved ice	Hang out at the pool
Hang out at pool with sister	Eat a bunch of shaved ice
Go collect beetles	Hang out with friends
Explore the creek	Go to mountains for treasure hunt
Play video games for an hour every day	Fireworks
Hang out with Nishimura	Read books in the library
Go explore the creek	Go to competition
Go to pool	Hang out with friends
Summer festival & fireworks	Go out with friends
Go to lazy river	Go out at the pool
	Play video games with friends

...IS
LINKED UP
WITH HIS.





"LET'S
KEEP
HANGING
OUT A
BUNCH
DURING
SUMMER
BREAK,
OKAY?!"

"NISHIMURA!"



WANNA
TAKE A
PICTURE
WITH
ME?

NISHI-
MURA!

Chapter
12

GLEAM

EH HEH
HEH. WELL,
EVERYONE IN
CLASS...

S-SURE,
BUT...THIS
FEELS
SUDDEN.

...IS SAYING
THAT A GHOST
WILL SHOW UP
IN THE PHOTO
IF WE TAKE A
PICTURE WITH
YOU...

HERE
WE
GO!

PEOPLE
PROBABLY
THINK
I'M THE
GHOST...

"DON'T
LOOK AT IT
TOO MUCH.
IT'S
PROBABLY
NISHI-
MURA."

"THERE'S
A GHOST
IN THIS
PHOTO!
SPOOKY!"

"IT DOES
LOOK LIKE
HER...
(LOL)"





HUH?
WHERE
DID
YOU
COME
FROM?

HINO!

...WOULD VISIT
SOME GUY WHO
LOOKS LIKE
HE'S HAVING A
BLAST TAKING
SPIRIT PHOTOS
LIKE YOU ARE?

DO YOU
HONESTLY
THINK A REAL
GHOST...

FLA

SH



THERE'S
A PRETTY
WIDE RANGE
BETWEEN
THOSE TWO
TOPICS!

HINO ALWAYS
HAS SOMETHING
TO SAY WHEN IT
COMES TO THE
OCCULT OR TANK
TOPS.



HERE
WE
GO!

G-GOT
IT...

WE
CAN'T
LOOK LIKE
WE'RE
HAVING FUN,
OKAY?

THANKS,
HINO.

POINTE

I'LL
TAKE
THE
PHOTO.

AND YOU
TWO AREN'T
ALLOWED TO
LOOK LIKE
YOU'RE HAVING
FUN, GOT IT?

YOU
LOOK LIKE
YOU'RE
HAVING
THE BEST
TIME
EVER!

TAKADA!



IT MUST
BE BECAUSE
I'M WITH
NISHIMURA.

THAT'S
WEIRD. I
MEANT TO
MAKE A
SERIOUS
FACE!



WHAT'S
THE MATTER,
NISHIMURA?

SHE'S
ABOUT
TO SMILE
TOO.

JUST BEING
WITH HER
IS ENOUGH
TO MAKE
ME BREAK
INTO A
SMILE.

AUGH



**MY CLUELESS
FIRST FRIEND**



NISHI-
MURA!

Chapter
13

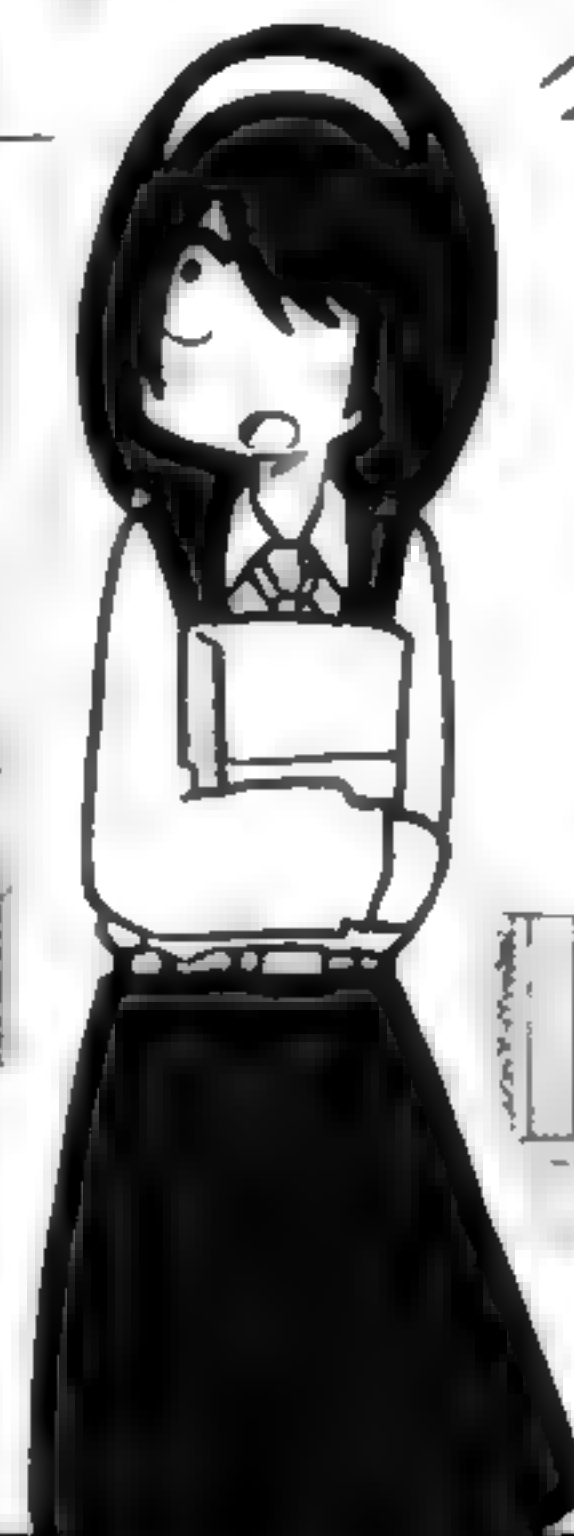


HEY, COME
BY OUR
HOUSE IF
YOU'RE FREE
LATER.

WHATCHA
UP TO?
SHOPPING?

OH HI,
YUKIKO...

IS THAT
BAG FROM
THE BOOK-
STORE?



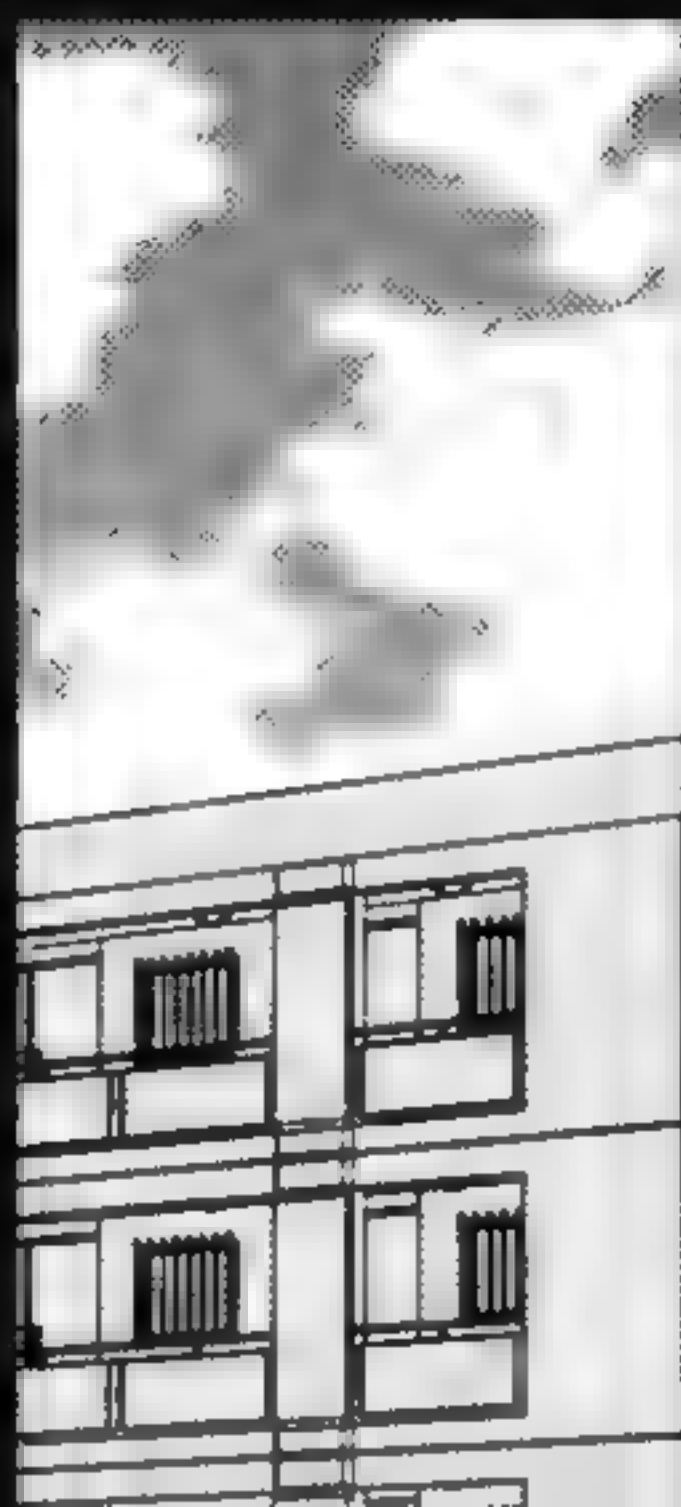
HUH?!

HEH

HEH

HEH

BUT MY
BROTHER
WON'T BE
HOME SINCE
HE'S GOT A
LESSON NOW.





YES, YES,
THAT'S JUST
ADORABLE!



I-I CAN'T
ACCEPT
THESE
CLOTHES,
YUKIKO...

OH,
IT'S FINE.
REALLY.

THEY'RE
MY OLD
CLOTHES,
ANYWAY.



UMM...

UH...



...EVERYONE
IN CLASS
WILL LAUGH
AT ME...

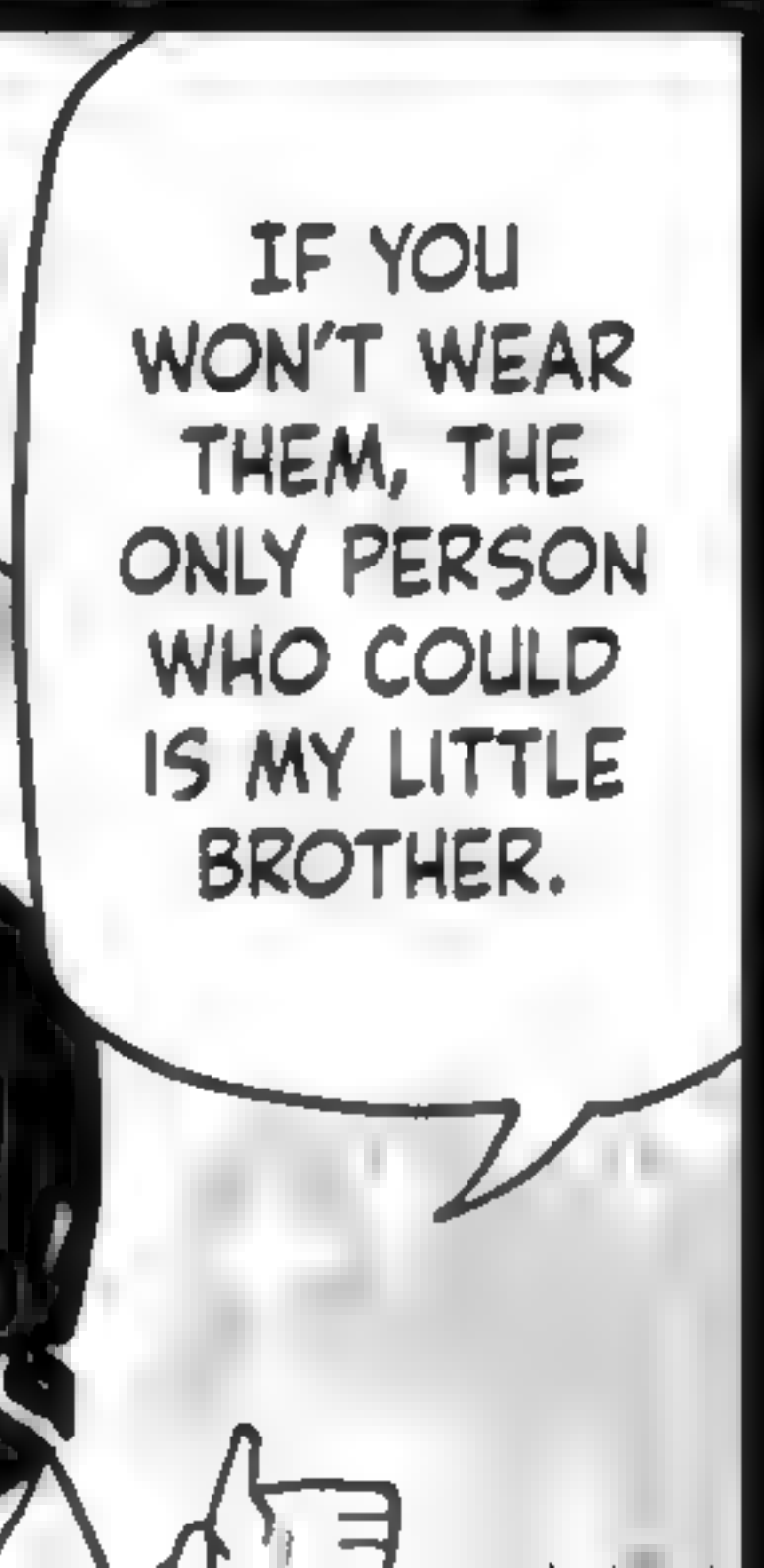
BUT IF
I WEAR
CLOTHES
AS CUTE
AS
THESE...



Y-YOU'D
MAKE HIM
WEAR
THEM?!



HER
BROTHER



IF YOU
WON'T WEAR
THEM, THE
ONLY PERSON
WHO COULD
IS MY LITTLE
BROTHER.



B-BUT...

MY...
NICKNAME
IS..."THE
GRIM
REAPER"...

WHY'S
THAT?
THEY LOOK
FANTASTIC
ON YOU.



DOES
THAT HAVE
ANYTHING
TO DO
WITH THE
CLOTHES
YOU
WEAR?

THAT'S A
PRETTY
COOL
NICKNAME,
THOUGH.



BUT I'D
BE MAKING
TROUBLE
FOR
TAKADA...

AND EVEN IF
THEY DO MAKE
FUN OF YOU, YOU
HAVE MY LITTLE
BROTHER TO HELP
YOU WHENEVER
SOMEONE SAYS
SOMETHING MEAN.

I DON'T
KNOW WHO
IT IS THAT'S
MAKING FUN
OF YOU...

NO, IT'S
FINE. HE'S
HAVING
THE MOST
FUN
OF ALL
ANYWAY.

...BUT I THINK
YOU SHOULDN'T
HESITATE TO
JUST WEAR THE
CLOTHES YOU
WANT TO WEAR.



HE'S
ALWAYS
TALKING
ABOUT YOU-
EVEN AT
HOME.



UNGH...
THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH...

BLUSH

BLUSH

BLUSH

BLUSH

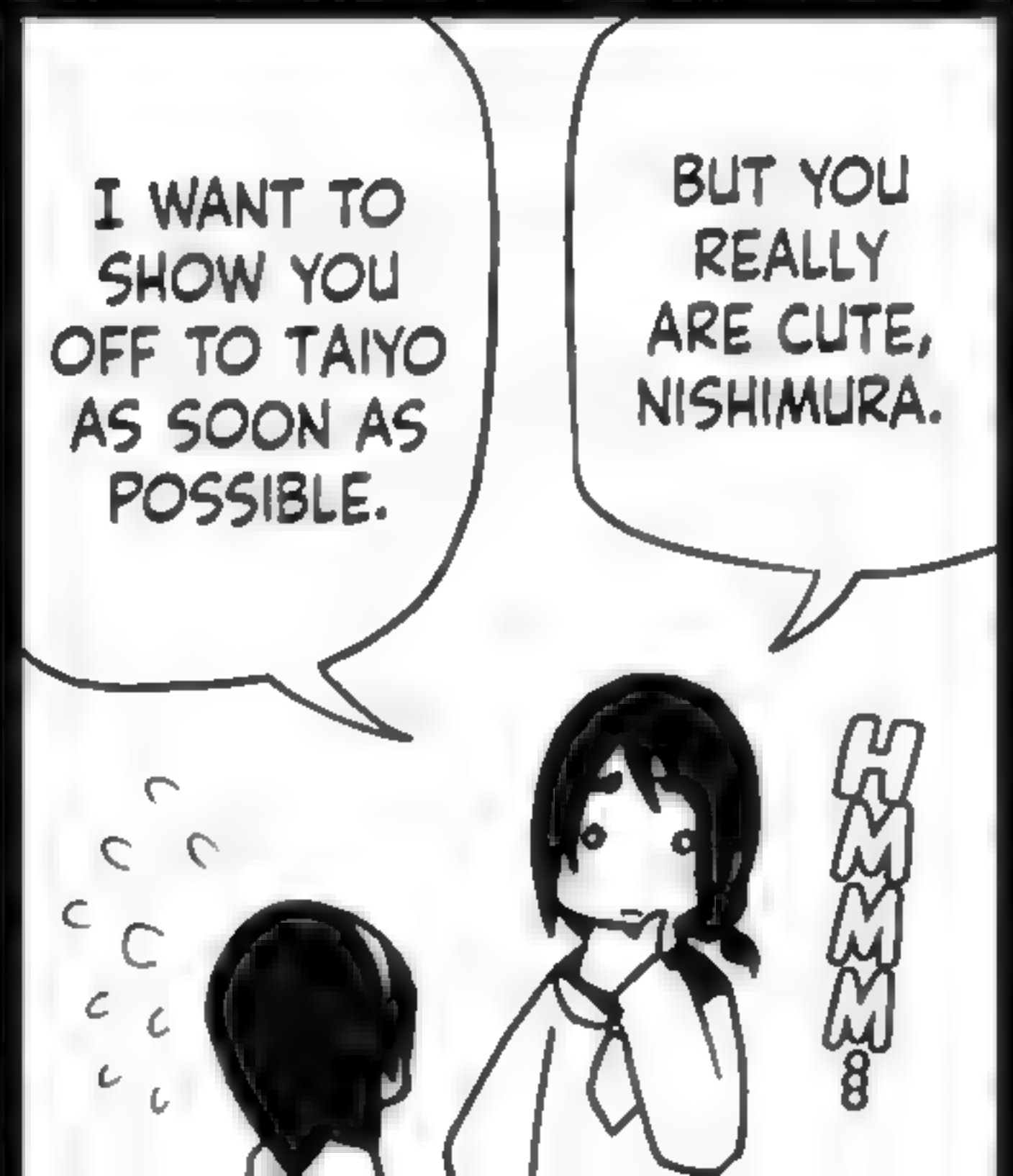
I'M
NOT
KIDDING
HERE.

AND WHEN
HE DOES,
HE'S
ALWAYS
SUPER
HAPPY.



SHE IS
SERIOUSLY
CUTE.

YOU'RE
SERI-
OUSLY
CUTE.



I WANT TO
SHOW YOU
OFF TO TAIYO
AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

BUT YOU
REALLY
ARE CUTE,
NISHIMURA.

HAMMM

Chapter 14

ER... SO,
FOR TODAY'S
CALLIGRAPHY
CLASS...

...I'M
ASKING ALL
OF YOU TO
WRITE YOUR
FAVORITE
WORD.

BECAUSE
IT'S
COOL...

WH-WHY
ARE YOU
DOING MY
NAME?!

OH, BUT
MAYBE "GRIM
REAPER"
WOULD BE
THE COOLEST
AFTER ALL.

YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT MY
NICKNAME,
RIGHT?!

IT'S
COOL,
AND
I LIKE
IT...



I GUESS
"TANK TOP"
MAKES
SENSE.

HMM...



WHAT'RE
YOU
WRITING
FOR YOUR
FAVORITE
WORD,
HINO?

WHAT'RE
YOU GONNA
WRITE?

THEN
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
NISHI-
MURA?



WHAAAA
?!



TAKADA, I
THINK IT'S
BEST IF YOU
GIVE UP ON
WRITING "GRIM
REAPER"...
OKAY?

KITAGAWA
AND THE
OTHERS WILL
TEASE YOU
FOR IT.



I
GUESS
...

WHAT'S
YOUR
FAVORITE
WORD?

...I
DON'T
REALLY
LIKE
GLOOMY
WORDS...

...IF I
HAD TO
SAY...

"TAIYO" MEANS "SUN."

HIS FULL
NAME
IS TAIYO
TAKADA.

OR
"SUN."

THAT'S
WHY I LIKE
WORDS
THAT ARE
THE EXACT
OPPOSITE.

LIKE
"LIGHT."

GASP

YES!
EXACTLY!
I LIKE
THE SUN!

THE
SUN
IN THE
SKY!

YOU
LIKE
THE
SUN?

B
L
U
U
U
S
H

HEY, YOU
TWO, I'M
HAVING SOME
TROUBLE
HERE.

HELP
ME.

IT
CAN BE
A LITTLE
TOO HOT
IN THE
SUMMER,
THOUGH!

I ALSO
LIKE
THE SUN!

YOU THINK IT'D
BE ALL RIGHT
TO JUST SPELL
IT OUT WITH
LETTERS?

WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO
WRITE OUR
WORDS IN
CHINESE
CHARACTERS,
BUT "TANK
TOP" DOESN'T
HAVE ANY...

F
R
E
T

F
R
E
T



...A
LOVE
LETTER
?!

Chapter
15

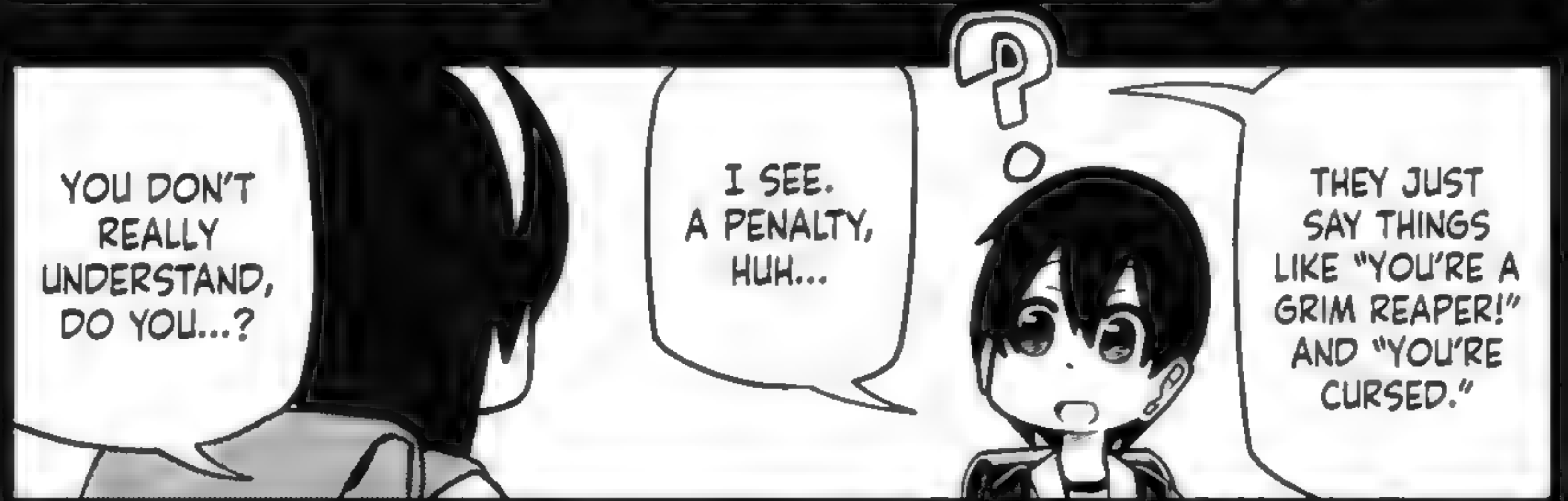




YEAH.

THEY TEASE
ME BY WRITING
FAKE LOVE
LETTERS TO THE
UNDESIRABLE
MS. GRIM
REAPER.

WRITING
YOU A LOVE
LETTER IS A
PENALTY?



YOU DON'T
REALLY
UNDERSTAND,
DO YOU...?

I SEE.
A PENALTY,
HUH...

THEY JUST
SAY THINGS
LIKE "YOU'RE A
GRIM REAPER!"
AND "YOU'RE
CURSED."



HE
WANTS
HER TO
CURSE
HIM.

'CAUSE
YOU'LL
CURSE ME,
RIGHT?

THAT'S
ALL YOU'RE
LISTENING
FOR
SOMETIMES,
ISN'T IT,
TAKADA?!



WHY
?!

CAN I
WRITE
YOU A
LOVE
LETTER
TOO?



M-
MANY?!

I'LL WRITE
ALL ABOUT
THE MANY
THINGS THAT
ARE CHARMING
ABOUT YOU!

D-DO
I EVEN
HAVE THAT
MUCH?

YEAH

OF
COURSE
YOU DO!
I KNOW A
BUNCH OF
THEM!

TEP
TEP



OH!

THAT
SECOND
POINT...
HE TOOK
THE WORDS
RIGHT OUT
OF MY
MOUTH.

AND I CAN'T
FORGET THE
FACT THAT
YOU BECAME
MY FRIEND.

TO START,
YOUR
EYES ARE
DEFINITELY
COOL.

ABOUT
WHAT?

WHAT
DO I
DO?!

EME
EME
EME



I DON'T
THINK I'M
GONNA BE
ABLE TO FIT
EVERYTHING
INTO A
LETTER!

THERE'RE
JUST WAY
TOO MANY
THINGS I
LOVE ABOUT
YOU.

?!

INSTEAD,
CAN I
JUST SAY THEM
OUT LOUD TO
YOU WHEN
I GET
EVERYTHING
ORGANIZED?

OUT LOUD
?!

NISHIMURA
AFTER
TAKADA
TOLD HER
OUT LOUD
EVERYTHING
HE LIKES
ABOUT
HER.

AH, I
REALLY AM
NO MATCH
FOR HIM...

I—I DON'T
REALLY THINK
THIS HAS
ANYTHING TO
DO WITH YOU,
TAKADA.

BLUSH

FWIP

BLUSH

BLUSH
BLUSH

BY THE
WAY, WHAT
EXACTLY
MAKES
THIS A
PENALTY?

BLUSH

SH

BLUSH

BLUSH



AN
UNLUCKY
AURA?

Chapter
16

IF YOU HANG
AROUND MS.
GRIM REAPER,
YOU'LL BE
CURSED WITH
BAD LUCK.

THAT'S
ANOTHER
ONE OF
NISHIMURA'S
CURSES.

GRIN

GRIN

KEH

KEH

THAT REMINDS
ME—I THINK
HINO ALSO
SAID HE'S INTO
THAT KIND
OF OCCULT
STUFF...



HINO

HEH
HEH...

AN
UNLUCKY
AURA...
SO
COOL...

AS LONG AS
YOU'RE HANGING
AROUND THAT
CREEPY GRIM
REAPER, YOU'LL
BECOME MORE
AND MORE
UNLUCKY!

ANY-
WAY!

WHY
THE HECK
WOULD
I BE?

SO DOES
THAT MEAN
YOU'RE
INTO TANK
TOPS TOO,
KITAGAWA?

GAH
HAH
HAH

↑ KITAGAWA

THAT'S WHY YOU
GOTTA JOIN US!
FORGET ABOUT
MS. GRIM
REAPER...

SNICKER

SNICKER

THAT'S
RIGHT.

BECAUSE OF
NISHIMURA'S
CURSE?

OH
WOW.

...THAT YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
HAVING BAD
LUCK RIGHT
NOW BECAUSE
OF THE GRIM
REAPER'S
CURSE.

THAT'S ONLY
BECAUSE
YOU HAVEN'T
NOTICED...

BUT I HAVE
FUN WHEN I'M
WITH HER.

THAT'S
THE AURA
YOU HAVE.

GRIN

NO
ONE SAID
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT!

SO YOU MEAN
NISHIMURA'S
OVERPOWERING
MY BAD LUCK
AND FLOODING
ME WITH
HAPPINESS?

GULP

DON'T
ASK
ME!

WHAT DO
YOU THINK,
KITAGAWA?

I TOTALLY
HAVE TO
THANK HER
FOR THAT,
HUH!

THEN THERE'S
NOTHING ELSE
THAT WOULD
EXPLAIN WHY I'M
SO INCREDIBLY
HAPPY WHEN
I'M WITH HER!

WHAT'S
WRONG?
WHY'RE YOU
CALLING SO
LATE?

H-HELLO?
TAKADA?

HEYY,
AKANE!
PHONE'S
FOR YOU!

R-R-R-R-R



???

THANKS
FOR
ALWAYS
MAKING ME
HAPPY.

HELLO?
NISHI-
MURA?

I'LL MAKE
SURE TO
BE THE ONE
MAKING YOU
HAPPY NEXT
TIME!

BLU

USH

WH-WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?! U



HA
HA
HA

HYAAGH

THAT'S NOT
THE PART YOU
SHOULD FEEL
EMBARRASSED
ABOUT.

I ALMOST
COULDN'T GIVE
HER A PROPER
THANK-YOU
'CAUSE IT
FELT SO
EMBARRASSING.

OHIO



I WAS HAVING
SO MUCH FUN
THAT I TALKED
FOR OVER
TWO HOURS...

OH
BOY!

BEEP

Chapter
17

G-GOOD
MORNING.



HI
TAKADA,
HI HINO.

YAAAY!

WHEE
WHEE

?!

YOUR
SISTER
GAVE
ME ALL
KINDS OF
CLOTHES...

I—I JUST
THOUGHT IT
MIGHT BE NICE
TO WEAR WHITE
ONCE IN A
WHILE...

WHAT
HAPPENED,
NISHIMURA?!
YOU'RE
DRESSED IN
WHITE!

YOU'RE
MILKYMURA
NOW!!

OH!!

TAKADA'S
BIG SISTER

BLA

UUSH





SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT SHE'S CUTE IN ADDITION TO BEING SUPER-POWERFUL?

ISN'T THAT WAY TOO COOL?

THAT'S AWE-SOME!

BUT KASAHARA, WEREN'T YOU JUST TALKING ABOUT HOW NISHIMURA'S GRIM REAPER POWERS WON'T DISAPPEAR NO MATTER WHAT SHE WEARS?



H-HOW DID YOU GET TO THAT CONCLUSION?!



KASA-HARA

YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE...

GRIM

I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO NOTICE THAT TOO...



THAT'S JUST HOW COOL NISHIMURA IS, HUH!

BECAUSE
WHEN I
FIRST SAW
NISHIMURA
TODAY...

...ALL
I COULD
THINK
WAS,
"WOW,
SHE'S
CUTE."

Y-YEAH, I
GET IT... I
GET IT.
THANKS.

CREALLY!

IT'S JUST THAT
BLACK HAS A
STRONGER COOL
COMPONENT TO
IT, AND WHITE
HAS MORE OF A
CUTE COMPONENT
TO IT...

OH, I'M NOT
SAYING THAT
BLACK DOESN'T
LOOK GOOD
ON YOU OR
ANYTHING,
NISHIMURA!

AAAAAAHH

A-ARE YOU
MAD?

I'M
SORRY...

SHE'S
HAPPY TO
HEAR THAT
AFTER ALL.

SHE'S
CALMED
DOWN.

MY NAME
IS TAIYO
TAKADA.

HI
EVERYONE.

AND THAT PERSON...

RECENTLY,
THERE'S
SOMEONE
THAT I'VE
TAKEN AN
INTEREST IN.

...IS
THE GIRL
WHO SITS
BEHIND ME
IN CLASS.

CHIFFEED

OHIGE

HER
NAME IS
NISHIMURA.



SHE
CONTINUES
TO BE
AWESOMELY
COOL—JUST
LIKE SHE
IS ON ANY
OTHER DAY.

GOOD
MORNING,
NISHI-
MURA!



G
L
A
R
E

GOOD
MORNING,
TAKADA.



IT'S
CLEANUP
TIME
NOW.



TAKADA...



I END UP
USING THIS
TIME TO
FIGURE OUT
WHAT I'LL
DO AFTER
SCHOOL.



I WONDER
WHAT I SHOULD
DO WITH
NISHIMURA WHEN
WE HANG OUT
TODAY...



SO, TAKADA,
ARE YOU
GOING OUT
WITH
NISHIMURA?

SNICKER
SNICKER

ZSH

KASA-
HARA...

London

THAT'S
EXACTLY THE
KIND OF THING
A KID WOULD
SAY!

I AM
A KID,
THOUGH...

YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHAT THAT
MEANS?

YOU'RE
SUCH A
KID.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
BY "GOING
OUT"?

...THAT
YOU TWO
ARE IN A
RELATION-
SHIP!

THE
KIND
WHERE
YOU GO
ON DATES
AND
KISS AND
STUFF!

HEHEHE

"GOING
OUT"
MEANS...

THEN THAT
MEANS YOU'RE
STRANGERS TO
EACH OTHER.

YEP.

BUT WE
HAVEN'T
DONE ANY
OF THAT
STUFF...

BUT YOU'RE
NOT GOING
OUT, ARE
YOU?

BOYS
AND GIRLS
THAT AREN'T
GOING OUT
ARE THE
SAME AS
STRANGERS
TO EACH
OTHER.

I'M PRETTY
SURE WE GET
ALONG
REALLY WELL,
THOUGH!

W H A A A T ?!

N O O O O

THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE
SUCH A KID.

TREMBLE
TREMBLE



N-NO
WAY...

I THOUGHT
THAT STUFF
ONLY APPLIED
TO ADULTS...

...BUT THAT'S
JUST WHAT
HAPPENS
BETWEEN
BOYS AND
GIRLS.



EVEN
CHILDREN
GO ON
DATES
AND
KISS.

I
HAVEN'T
DONE
THOSE
THINGS...

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
NISHIMURA
AND I
ARE JUST
STRANGERS
...

WHAT
HAPPENS
BETWEEN
BOYS AND
GIRLS...



H-
HMPH!

AS IF
I CARE
ABOUT
THAT!



GOOD
FOR
YOU,
KASA-
HARA.

NISHIMURA
DIDN'T BEAT
YOU TO THE
PUNCH.



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
SHE WAS A
STRANGER
TO ME!

I
THOUGHT
SHE
WAS MY
FRIEND.



WH-WHAT'S
THE MATTER,
TAKADA?

MOOOPE

HAAAH...



NISHI-
MURA.



UM...
YEAH...

I'M
A KID
TOO...

NISHIMURA,
DO YOU
JUST SEE
ME AS A
KID?

WHEN WE
GROW UP,
DO YOU
THINK WE
COULD
KISS?



WHAT?
UM,
ER...

WHY
?!

UB
LUSH
H



SORRY,
BUT I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT!



KASAHARA
WAS SAYING
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

BUT I
STILL THINK
IT'S TOO
EARLY FOR
KIDS TO
DO THAT
STUFF...



...WE'RE
STILL TRUE
FRIENDS!

EVEN
IF WE
DON'T
DO THAT
STUFF...

AH
HA
HA
HA
HA



YEAH,
I GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

AH HA
HA!



KASAHARA
WAS SAYING
THAT YOU
AND I ARE
STRANGERS
TO EACH
OTHER...

THAT'S A
RELIEF!

Y-YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!
FRIENDS!

WE'RE
FRIENDS!



?

AH HA HA!
SORRY,
NISHIMURA.

YOU
REALLY
SCARED ME
BEFORE...



N-NO!

IT'S
NOTH-
ING...

WAIT, IS
SOMETHING
THE
MATTER?

WMF
WMF
WMF



BUT...

AAAH

SHE FELT
A LITTLE
AWKWARD
SAYING
"FRIENDS"
HERSELF.



MY FIRST
FRIEND...
IS TOTALLY
CLUELESS.

...IS IT
NORMAL FOR
YOUR HEART
TO RACE THIS
MUCH WHEN
YOU'RE WITH A
FRIEND?

TH-
THIS
IS...

WHOA

AH! WHAT'S
GOING ON,
NISHIMURA
?!

Chapter
18

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
WITH THAT
CAT?

Please take me
home with you

OH WOW. I
GUESS IT'S AN
ABANDONED
KITTEN...

...A CAT I
FOUND IN
A NEARBY
PARK.

IT'S
CUTE.

IT'S ALL
BLACK,
HUH.

OH BOY!
IT'S SO
CUTE.

AH HA
HA! CHILL,
NISHIMURA.

THEN I
WANT TO
KEEP IT!

I-IF
SOME-
ONE
ABAN-
DONED
IT, THEN-

MEOW

HEE

HEE



I SURE
HOPE
YOU'LL
KEEP IT.

I WAS
ALSO
THINKING IT
WOULD BE
A **PERFECT**
MATCH FOR
YOU!

SMILE

ERROR
ERROR
ERROR



NOTHING,
REALLY...

O-OH
NO...

WHAT'S
UP?



THAT'S BECAUSE
KITAGAWA'S
SENSITIVE TO
CURSES.

UNLIKE
ME.

HA
HA
HA

KITAGAWA
MIGHT SAY
THAT KIND
OF STUFF...



YOU'RE
NOT EVIL,
NISHIMURA.



IT'S
JUST
...

...IF THIS
KITTEN IS
WITH "THE
GRIM REAPER,"
PEOPLE WILL
EVEN SAY IT'S
EVIL OR
UNLUCKY...

...AND
I MIGHT
FEEL BAD
ABOUT
THAT...



...AS I
HAVE
WHEN
I'M
WITH
YOU.

BECAUSE
I'VE NEVER
FELT SO
FULL OF
HAPPINESS
EVERY DAY...



PLUS!

LOOK
AT THIS
LITTLE
GUY...

SHE'S HAPPY.

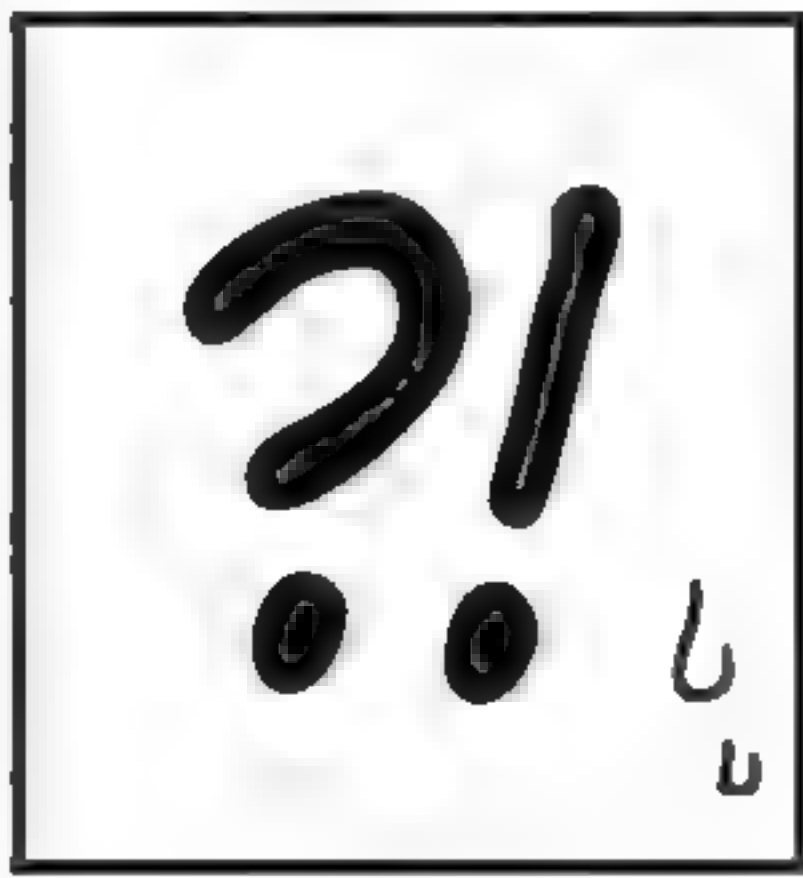
A
A
A
A
H

B
U
B
B
L
E
S

OKAY
...



SO I'M
SURE THIS
KITTEN
WILL BE
FINE.



THIS
KITTEN'S
SUPER-
DUPER
CUTE! JUST
LIKE YOU!



Y-YEAH...

IT
ACTUALLY
IS PRETTY
CUTE.

BLUSH
BLUSH

BLUSH
BLUSH

BLUSH
BLUSH

IT'S
REALLY
CUTE!

IT
PERFECTLY
MATCHES
YOUR IMAGE,
NISHIMURA!

IT-IT
REALLY IS
CUTE.

YOU'RE
GRINNING
LIKE
CRAZY.



M
R
R
R
O
W.

LIKE ME?
IN WHAT
WAY? ITS
COLOR?!

u
u

KYAH
KYAH
KYAH

IT'S
SORT OF
LIKE YOU,
AND THAT
MAKES IT
ULTRA-
CUTE!



**MY CLUELESS
FIRST FRIEND**



**MY CLUELESS
FIRST FRIEND**

DID
YOU HAVE
ANOTHER
FIGHT WITH
NISHIMURA?

L
L
L
MOOOOM

WHOA!

WHAT'S
WRONG,
TAIYO?

Chapter
19

WHAT?
FOR
REAL?

I MADE
HER CRY,
AND IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT!

WE DIDN'T
GET INTO
A FIGHT,
YUKIKO.

S
I
I
G
H

YOU
TWO FIGHT
SURPRISINGLY
OFTEN.

SQUEEEZE

CL
CL



...WE
SOMEHOW
STARTED
TALKING
ABOUT "WHAT
IF NISHIMURA
WASN'T A GRIM
REAPER."

WHILE I WAS
HEADING BACK
HOME WITH
NISHIMURA
AND HINO
TODAY...



I SAID,
"IT DOESN'T
MATTER AS
LONG AS I'M
WITH YOU"...

AND
WHAT
WAS
YOUR
ANSWER,
TAIYO?

I JUST
SORT OF
BLURTED
THAT OUT.



YOU'RE
A REAL
GOOFBALL,
TAIYO.

I WONDER
WHY SHE
WAS
CRYING.

MAYBE
I SAID
SOMETHING
THAT
HURT HER
FEELINGS...

NISHIMURA
CRIED A
LITTLE.

SHE WAS
TRYING TO
HOLD IT IN,
THOUGH.

OH
HO!
♪

I WONDER
WHY. IT'D
REALLY BOTHER
ME IF SHE ENDED
UP HATING ME.

THAT'S GREAT!!

SCUFF SCUFF

AAAAAH

EVERY-
THING WILL
BE ALL
RIGHT! YOU
TWO WILL
BE JUST
FINE!

I SEE, I
SEE! YOU
ADORABLE
LITTLE
RASCAL,
YOU!

ト
| M
R
O
W
、



IF I WERE
NEVER
CALLED
"THE GRIM
REAPER"...

"...IT
DOESN'T
MATTER AS
LONG AS I'M
WITH YOU!"

"WELL,
THE WAY
I SEE
IT..."

...BUT
EVEN SO,
TAKADA...

IT WAS
JUST A
"WHAT IF"
THING...

HOW DID
WE GET
ONTO THAT
TOPIC?

OH, I'M
SO GLAD
YOU DON'T
HATE ME!

ME?
HATE
YOU?

I-I
COULD
NEVER.

SHE'S
HAPPY.

...WOULD
STILL BE
WITH ME.



**IT
WASN'T?!**

THINGS ARE
GOING IN A
DIFFERENT
DIRECTION
THAN USUAL!

OH, NO.
THAT'S
NOT IT AT
ALL...

NO... THAT'S
JUST WHAT
SOME PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN
SAYING...

BUT I
DIDN'T KNOW
I COULD GET
CURSED FROM
THAT! THAT'S
AWESOME!

IT'S JUST THAT
I'VE NEVER REALLY
SEEN YOU LAUGH, SO
I WANTED TO SEE
IF I COULD MAKE
YOU BURST OUT
LAUGHING OR
SOMETHING...

GIVE IT
YOUR
ALL?

??

THEN
I'LL
GIVE
IT MY
ALL!!

REALLY
?!

WHOOOOO

I-IN ANY
CASE, YOU
COULD MAKE
ME ACTUALLY
LAUGH
WITHOUT
HAVING TO
TICKLE ME,
YOU KNOW...

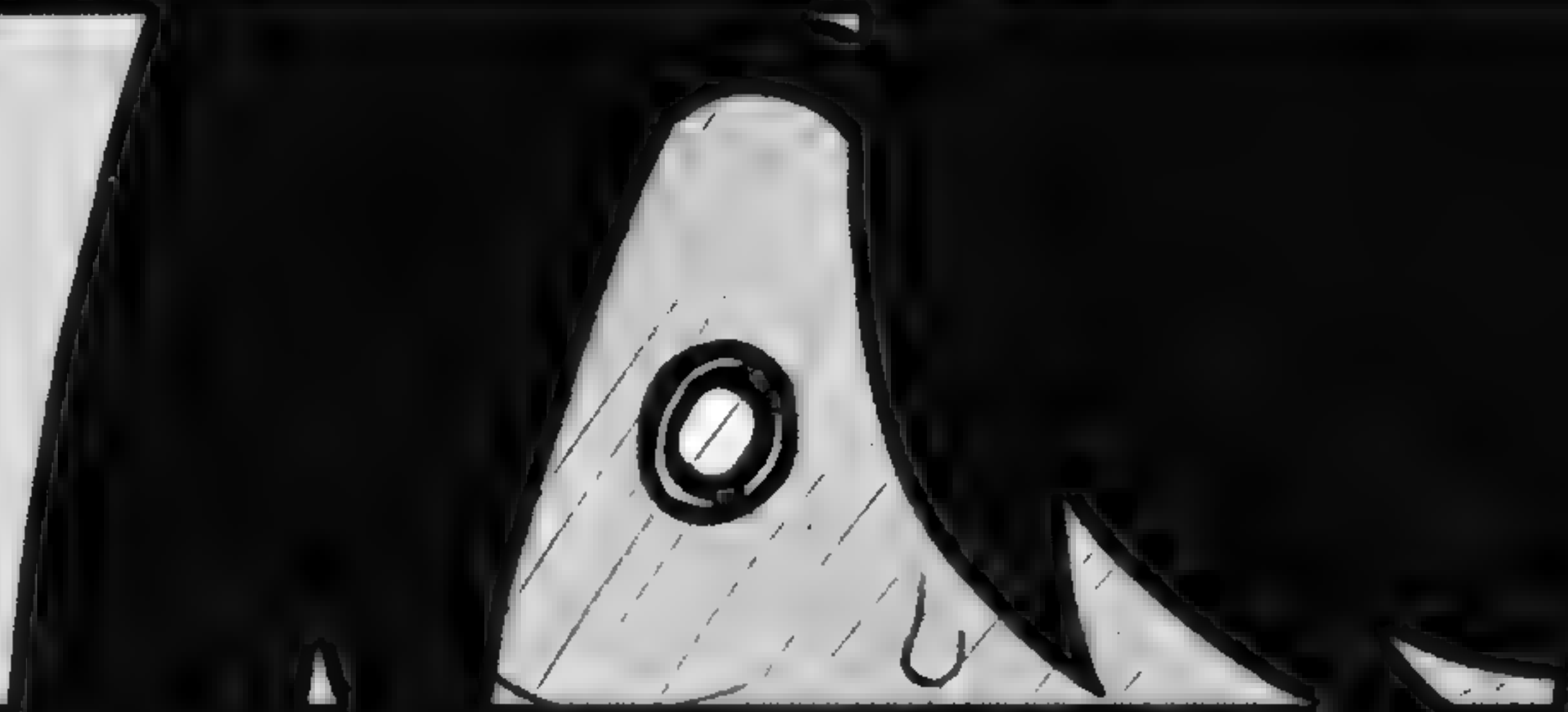
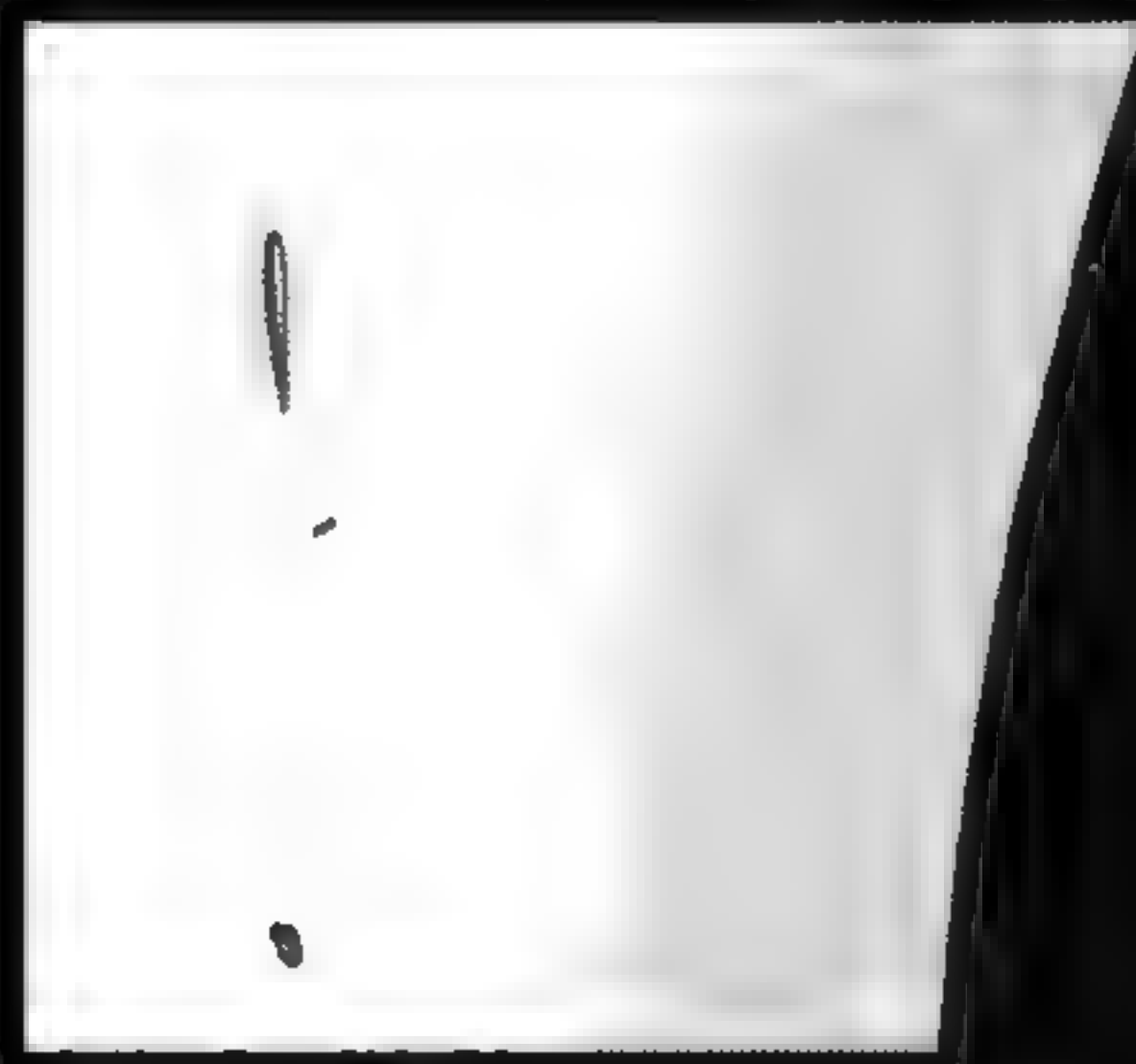
WELL,
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT WILL
ACTUALLY
HAPPEN.

I'LL GET
CURSED IF
YOU SMILE
AT ME,
RIGHT?

WHILE
I'M AT
IT...

...I WANT
TO BECOME
THE PERSON
IN YOUR LIFE
WHO MAKES
YOU LAUGH
AND SMILE
THE MOST,
NISHIMURA.

I WANT YOU
TO LAUGH
AND SMILE
A LOT WHEN
YOU'RE BY
MY SIDE.



HE'S
IN PUR-
SUIT.

IF YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO CURSE
ME, THEN
ALL YOU'RE
DOING IS
BEING CUTE,
NISHI-
MURA!

IF
YOU'RE
GOING
TO SMILE,
YOU
GOTTA
SHOW
ME!

ARE YOU
SMILING
ALREADY?

WAIT.

IT MAKES
ME START
GRINNING
WHEN HE
SAYS STUFF
LIKE THAT...

FSSH FSSH

FSSH FSSH



?!!

B D M P



SUMMER
BREAK
WILL BEGIN
TOMORROW.

HAVE FUN,
EVERYONE,
BUT DON'T
OVERDO IT...

ERR...
AND
SO...

Chapter
21



YEAH!



SUMMER
BREAK!

YAY

YAY

I CAN
HARDLY
WAIT!
CAN YOU,
NISHIMURA?

MRMR

MRMR

SUMMER
BREAK
STARTS
TOMORROW.

"LET'S KEEP
HANGING OUT A
BUNCH DURING
SUMMER BREAK,
OKAY?!"

"NISHIMURA!"

OHIGE

OHIGE

I'M GOING
TO THE POOL
WITH TAKADA
AND HINO.

Chapter
21





YOU WANT
TO HANG OUT
AT THE SCHOOL
SWIMMING
POOL WHEN
IT'S OPEN TO
STUDENTS,
RIGHT?



Y-YES,
THERE IS...

I CAN'T
WEAR THAT
TO THE
POOL...

IS THERE
SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH
WEARING
YOUR
SCHOOL
SWIMSUIT?



"...THAT IT'S
LAME FOR
FIFTH-GRADERS
TO WEAR THE
SCHOOL
SWIMSUIT."

"SO,
HINO
WAS
SAYING
..."

BUT
AKANE
...

YOOO.

I'LL STICK
OUT IF I
WEAR A
SCHOOL
SWIMSUIT.



I'M...
...A
FIFTH-
GRADER
NOW.

N-NO WAY! I
CAN'T WEAR
SOMETHING
THAT CUTE!

HOW
ABOUT
ONE OF
THESE?!
THEY'RE
PRETTY
CUTE!



IT'S
RARE FOR
YOU TO
INSIST ON
SOME-
THING.

I HEAR
YOU,
AKANE.





AWW...

IT
DOESN'T
HAVE TO
BE CUTE!

S-SOME-
THING PLAIN
IS FINE...
SOMETHING
NORMAL!



I'LL
STICK
OUT
WAY
TOO
MUCH!

I-IT
IS!

IF THAT'S
THE CASE, IS
IT REALLY A
PROBLEM TO
WEAR YOUR
SCHOOL
SWIMSUIT?

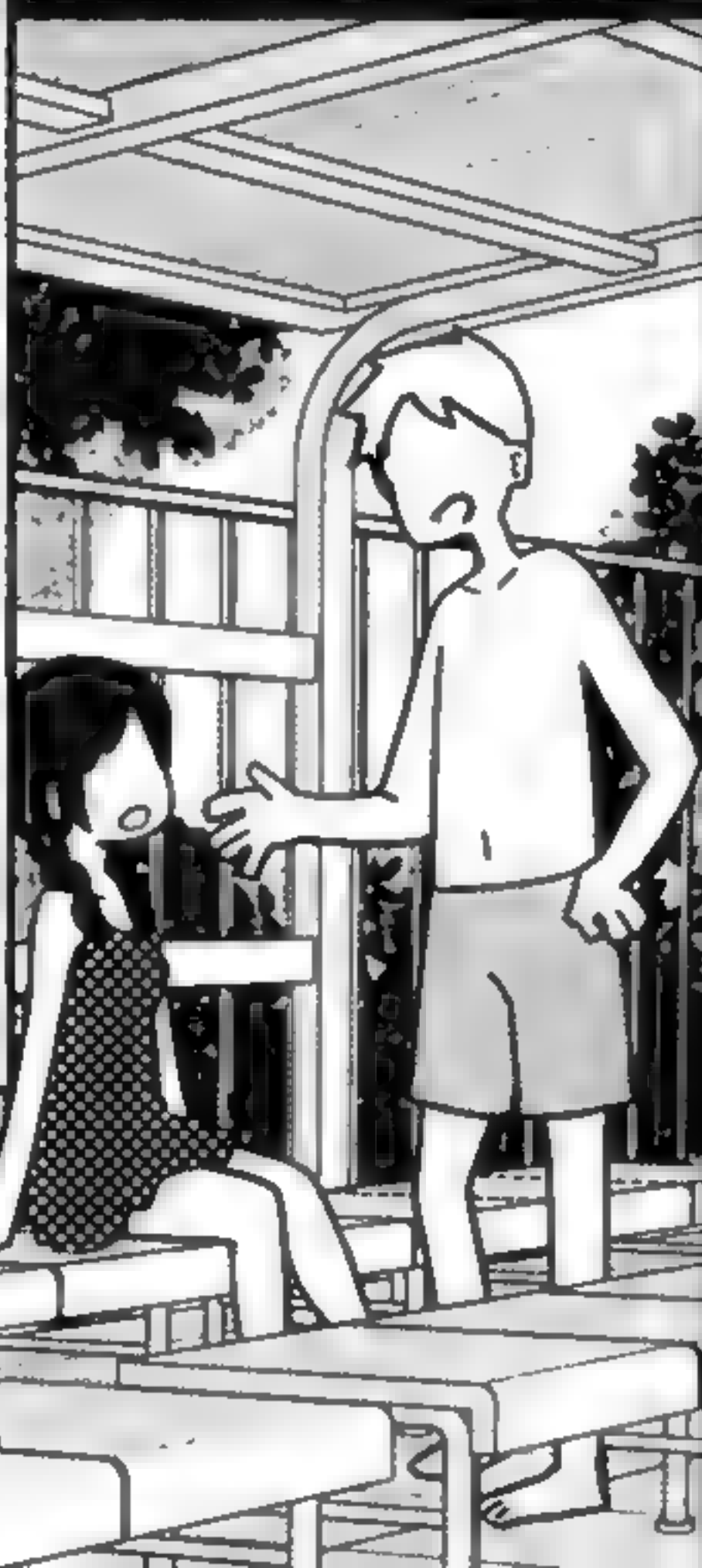


U
U
THINGS
SURE ARE
COMPLICATED
FOR KIDS
YOUR AGE...

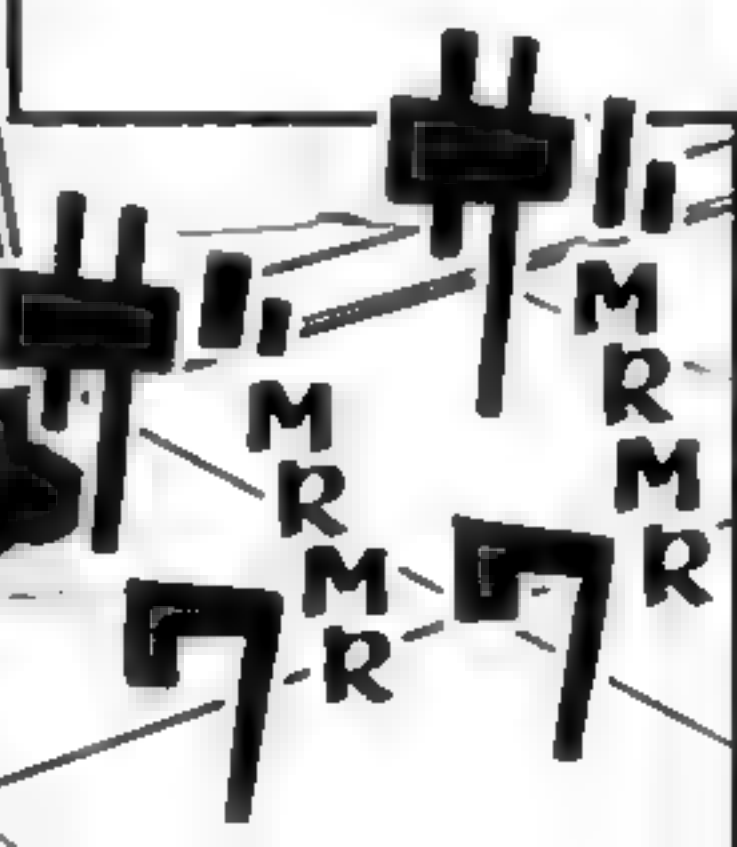




THERE
ACTUALLY
ISN'T ANYONE
HERE WEARING
THE SCHOOL-
ISSUED
SWIMSUITS.



OH...IT'S
A GOOD
THING I
HAD DAD
BUY A
SWIMSUIT
FOR ME.



I WOULD
STICK OUT
IF I WORE
MY SCHOOL
SWIMSUIT...

...DOESN'T
GET IT
AFTER ALL.

SEAK
SEAK

DAD...

...BUT
PEOPLE WILL
MAKE FUN
OF ME FOR
WEARING
A CUTE
SWIMSUIT.

I WONDER
WHAT TAKADA
WILL THINK?

IT'S HARD
TO KEEP
THINGS
BALANCED

...

...WHEN
YOU'RE
"THE GRIM
REAPER."





WH-WHY'D
YOU PAUSE
LIKE THAT?!
IS THERE
SOMETHING
STRANGE?!

OH...
WOW.



I
MIGHT'VE
MESSED
UP...

ハ
ア
ア
ア
ハ
ア

O-
OKAY...

NO,
YOU'RE
FINE.

COME
ON, HURRY
AND SWIM
WITH ME.



...“THE GRIM
REAPER”
IS MAKING
AN EFFORT
TO LOOK
GOOD...

NOW IT
MIGHT
LOOK
LIKE...



MS. GRIM
REAPER'S
WEARING A
SWIMSUIT
THAT'S WAY
TOO CUTE
FOR HER!

YO,
CHECK
IT
OUT!



YOU'RE
A GRIM
REAPER—YOU
GOTTA BE
BREAKING
SOME SORTA
RULE WITH
THAT CUTE
SWIMSUIT!

IGNORE
THEM. JUST
IGNORE
THEM.

LOOKS
LIKE
KITAGAWA
CAME.



HEY!
I WAS
TEASING
HER!

SEE,
NISHIMURA?
KITAGAWA
ALSO THINKS
IT SHOULD BE
AGAINST THE
RULES FOR
YOU TO BE
THIS CUTE.



DOES
THAT
MEAN...

...TAKADA
ALSO
THINKS
THAT?

KITA-
GAWA

...

...ALSO?

YOU'RE
ALWAYS...

BDMP ≠
BDMP ≠
BDMP ≠

...PUTTING
WAY TOO
MUCH OF A
POSITIVE SPIN
ON THINGS,
MAN!

WH-
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

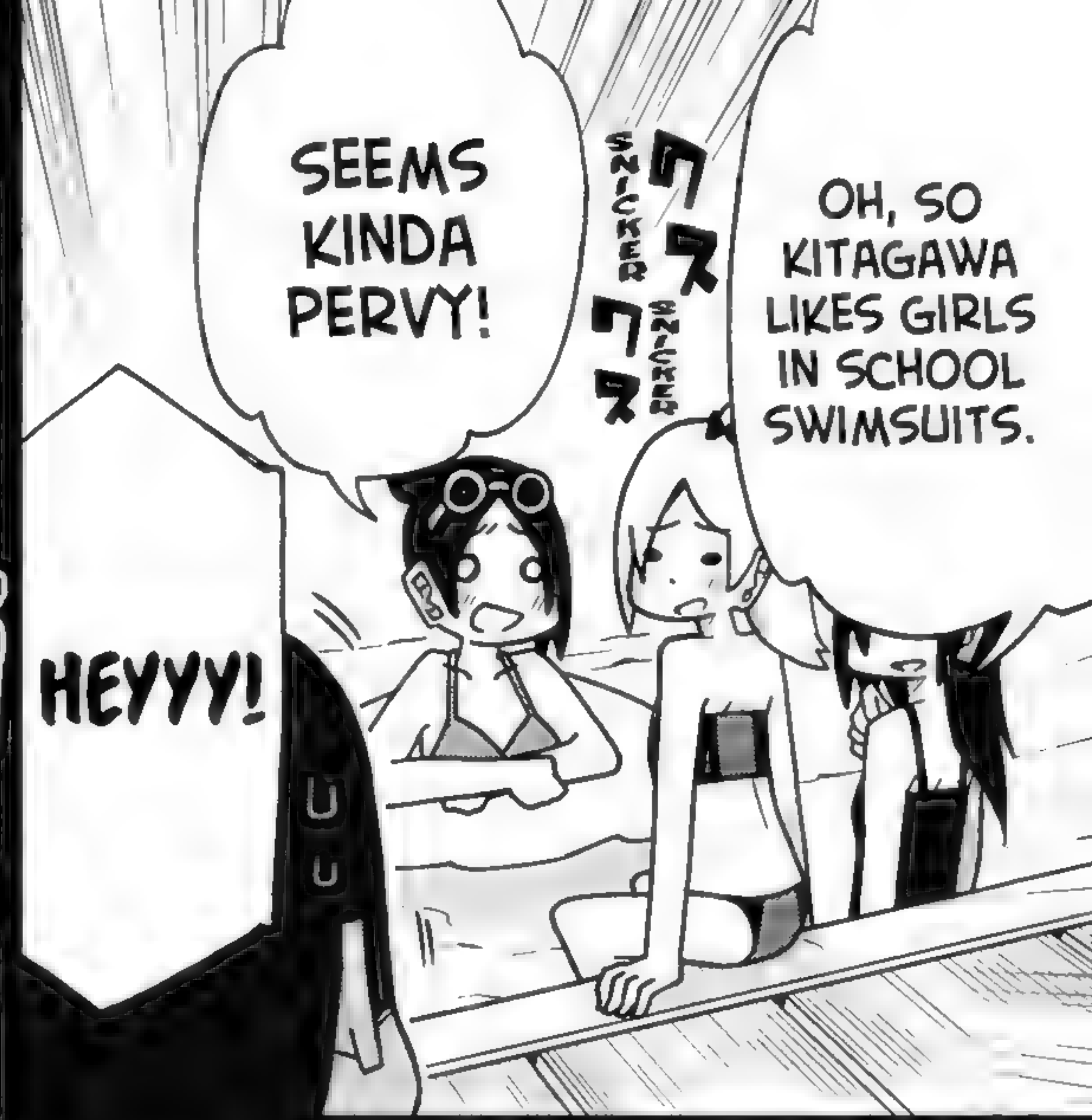
I'M SAYING
THAT SWIMSUIT
DOESN'T WORK
FOR NISHIMURA.

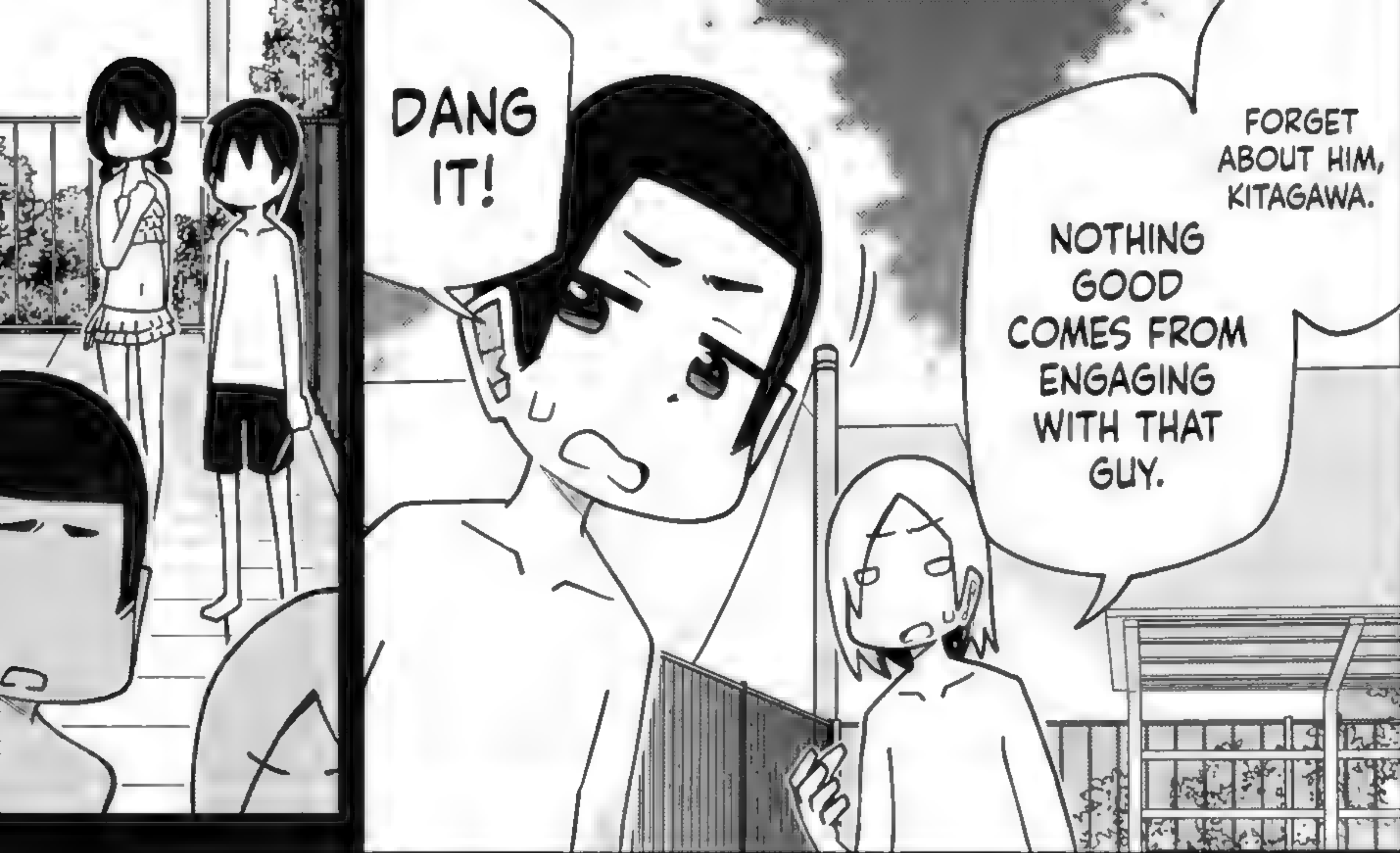
ER-30
K-30
ER-30
K-30

I WAS
MAKING
FUN OF
HER.

WHAT KINDA
RIDICULOUS
LOGIC ARE YOU
WORKING WITH,
TAKADA?

SO WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING
IS...THAT YOU
PREFER HER IN
HER SCHOOL
SWIMSUIT?

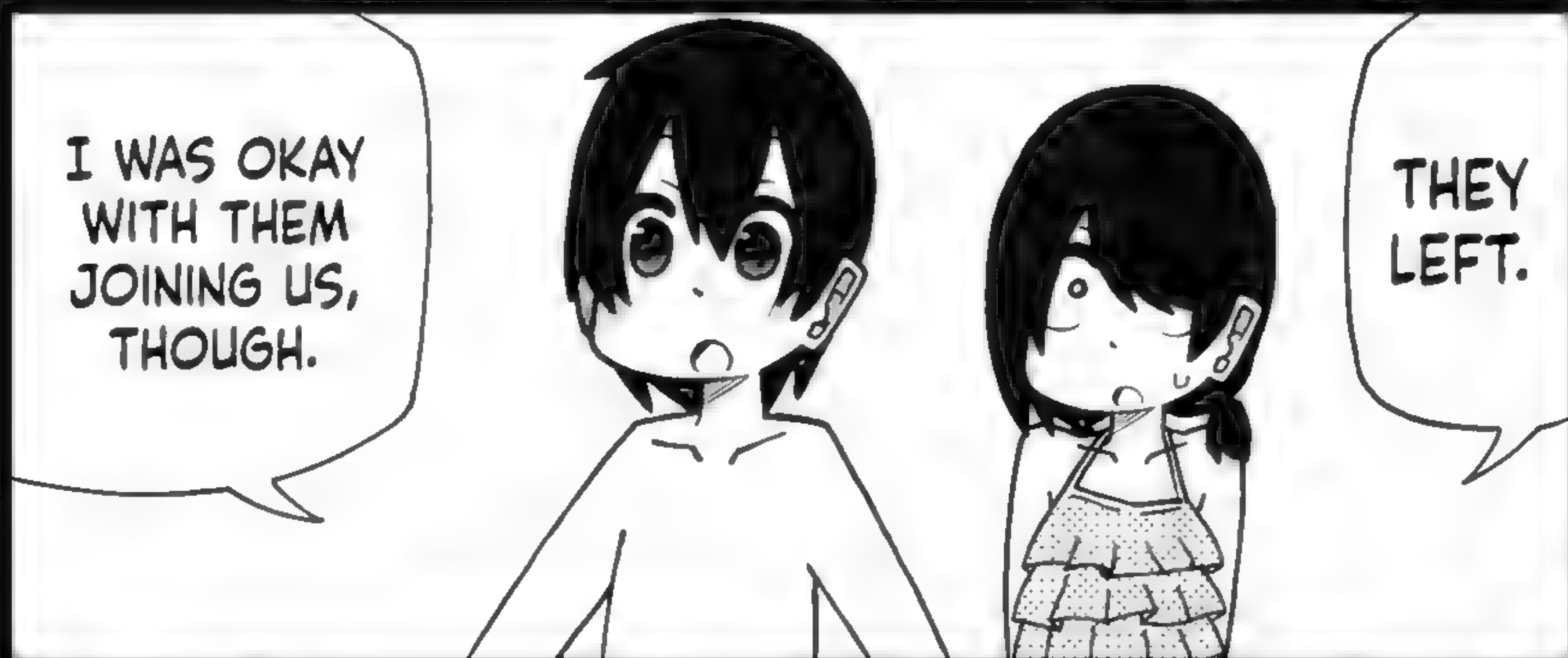




DANG IT!

FORGET ABOUT HIM, KITAGAWA.

NOTHING GOOD COMES FROM ENGAGING WITH THAT GUY.



I WAS OKAY WITH THEM JOINING US, THOUGH.

THEY LEFT.



CAN'T KEEP YOUR EYES OFF THEM... DOES THAT MEAN...

OH, HINO'S HERE TOO.

"YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR EYES OFF THE GIRLS IN THEIR SWIMSUITS, HUH?"



OH
YEAH.

NO...

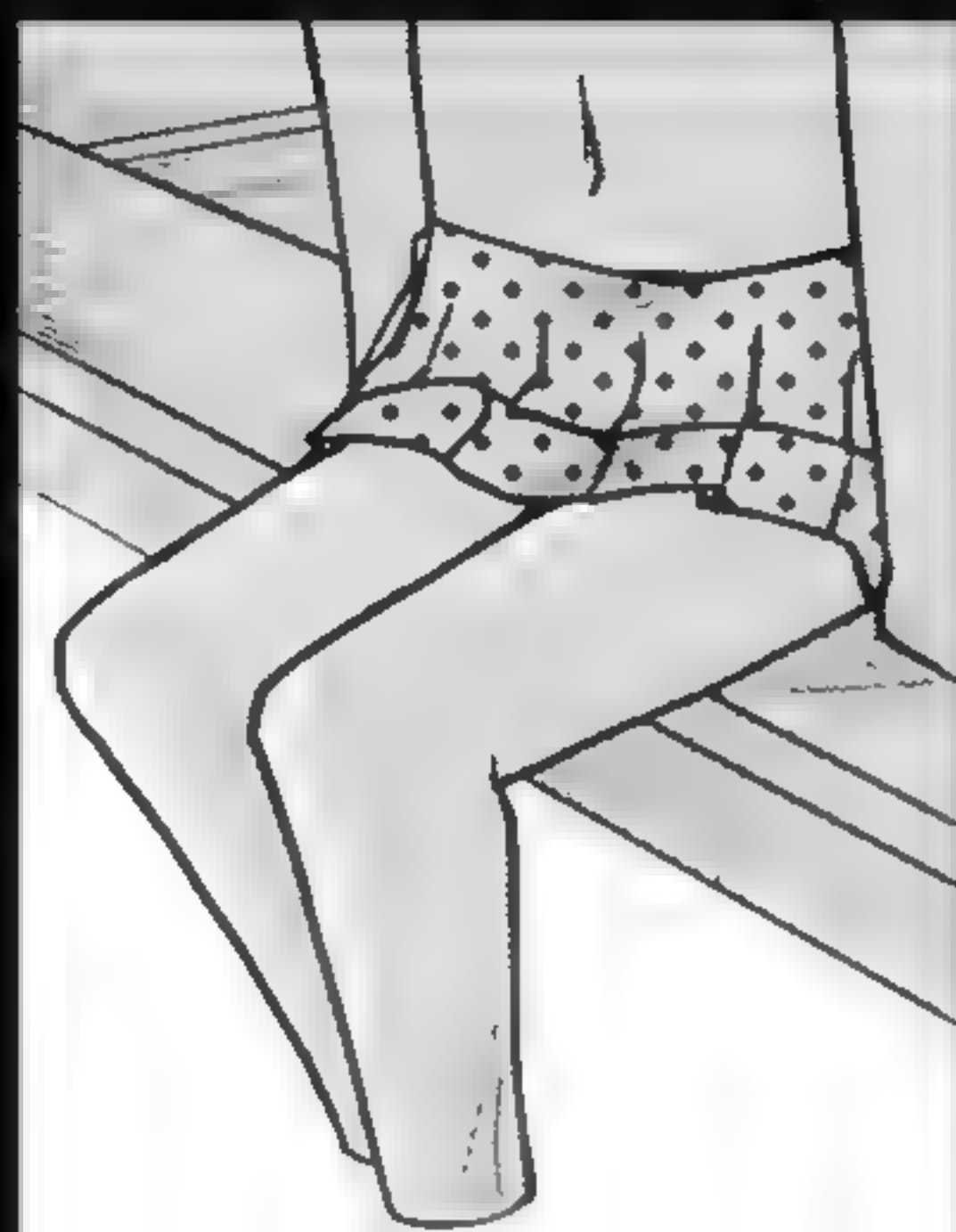
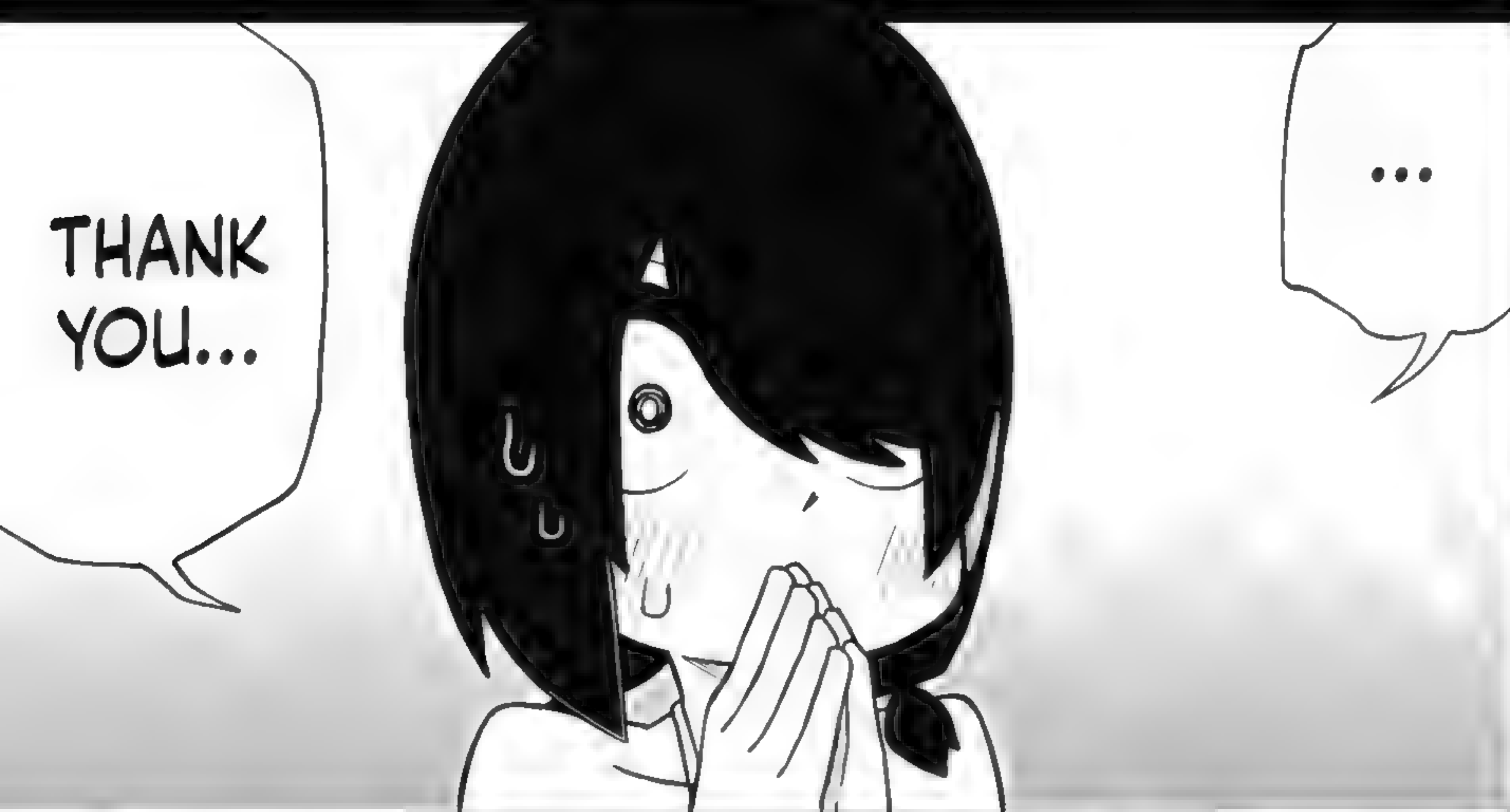
NISHI-
MURA...

THAT
COULDN'T
INCLUDE
ME...



IT'S
PERFECT
FOR
YOU.

THAT
SWIMSUIT
IS SUPER-
CUTE.



I'M
GLAD...

...I
HAD DAD
BUY THIS
SWIMSUIT
FOR ME...



MY FIRST
FRIEND...
IS TOTALLY
CLUELESS.



**MY CLUELESS
FIRST FRIEND**



TAKADA
HAS A
COLD?!

WHAT?!



I SEE...

I HOPE
HE'S ALL
RIGHT...

HE SAID
HE HASN'T
BEEN FEELING
WELL SINCE
YESTERDAY.



ANYWHO!
THAT'S
WHY WE'RE
GOING
TO VISIT
TAKADA AT
HOME!

HUH
?!

AREN'T
YOU THE
ONE WHO
TENDS TO
GET COLD
SHOULDERS?

I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT.
AND AFTER
I TOLD HIM
NOT TO
LET HIS
SHOULDERS
GET TOO
COLD...





?

I-IS
THAT ALL
RIGHT?

WE
WOULDN'T
ACTUALLY BE
BOTHERING
HIM, WOULD
WE?



!!

B
D
M
P
✕

000

CAN'T
IMAGINE
A WORLD
WHERE
TAKADA
WOULDN'T
BE...

...OVER
THE MOON
TO GET
A VISIT
FROM
YOU.



WELL,
YEAH.

IT'S
TAKADA
WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

EH
HEH
HEH.

I-IS...
THAT
SO?

SHE'S
HAPPY.



**H-
HINO!**

OF COURSE
HE'LL BE
THRILLED...

...WITH ME
GOING
ALONG
WITH YOU.



HEH.

IF I'M
WITH HIS BEST
FRIEND HINO,
THAT WOULD
TOTALLY MAKE
TAKADA HAPPY!!

Y-YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!



I WAS JUST
COVERING MY
FACE OUT OF
EMBARRASS-
MENT.

I KNOW
YOU'RE
WORRIED
ABOUT
TAKADA,
BUT YOU
DON'T
GOTTA CRY
ABOUT IT.

HA
HA

I JUST
MISINTER-
PRETED
WHAT HE
SAID. HOW
EMBARRASS-
ING...

SHAKE
SHAKE

"CAN'T
IMAGINE
A WORLD
WHERE
TAKADA
WOULDN'T
BE OVER
THE MOON
TO GET A
VISIT FROM
YOU"...









SHE'S
A GRIM
REAPER.

WELL
...

...THERE'S
PRETTY MUCH
NO WAY A
RING LIKE THIS
WOULD LOOK
GOOD ON
NISHIMURA.



NO, THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I'M SAYING!

YOU
ALWAYS
GET
THINGS ALL
WRONG!

YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S PRETTY
LOW-GRADE FOR
A RING, SO IT
MIGHT NOT BE
GOOD ENOUGH
FOR NISHIMURA...



A TOY
RING!

A TOY
RING?

(K)

(T)



THIS IS
ABOUT HOW
IT'S NOT
GOOD FOR
NISHIMURA!

YEAH!

WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT HOW
IT'S NOT
GOOD FOR
NISHIMURA,
RIGHT?

???

I'M STILL A KID AT THE MOMENT, SO A TOY RING IS ALL I CAN GET FOR YOU.

BUT I'M SORRY, NISHIMURA.

WHYYYY
?! ✨

SO YOU'RE SAYING I HAVE TO GIVE NISHIMURA A REAL RING!



OH, N-NO... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

?! ✨

AND KASAHARA, I HAVE TO THANK YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS FOR GIVING ME ADVICE!

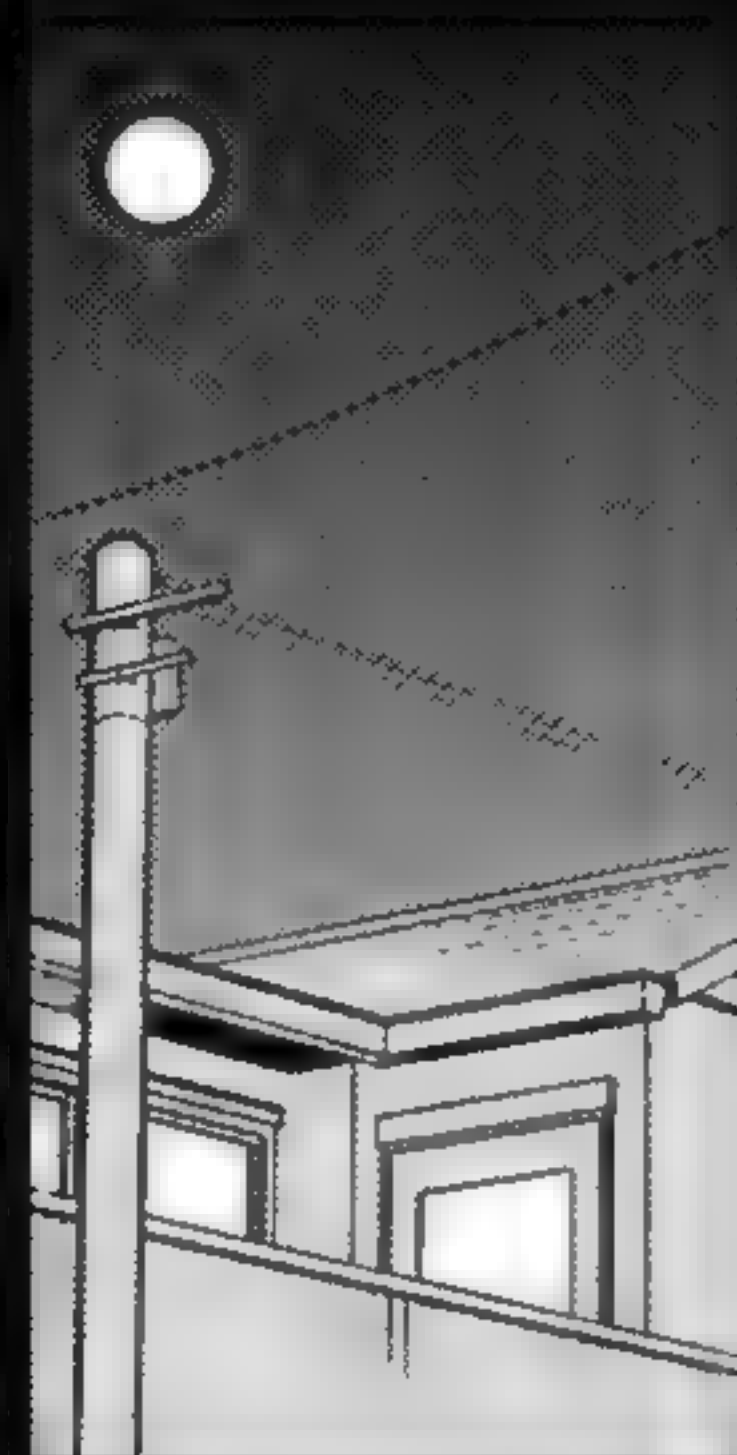
SHE'S HAPPY.

OH... YOU HAD ANOTHER RING ON YOU...

BY THE WAY, THIS IS A DARK MATTER RING!

IT ABSORBS DARK MAGIC, SO I THINK IT'LL WORK BETTER FOR YOU THAN ORICHALCUM WOULD!

NO, I GAVE NO SUCH THING!



"...SO A TOY
RING IS ALL I
CAN GET FOR
YOU."



"I'M STILL
A KID AT THE
MOMENT..."





TAKADA'S
BIG SISTER,
YUKIKO
TAKADA
(FIRST-YEAR
IN JUNIOR
HIGH)



TAIYO

...

...DID YOU
COME ALL
THE WAY
OUT HERE TO
PLAY VIDEO
GAMES?

HMM,
OKAY.

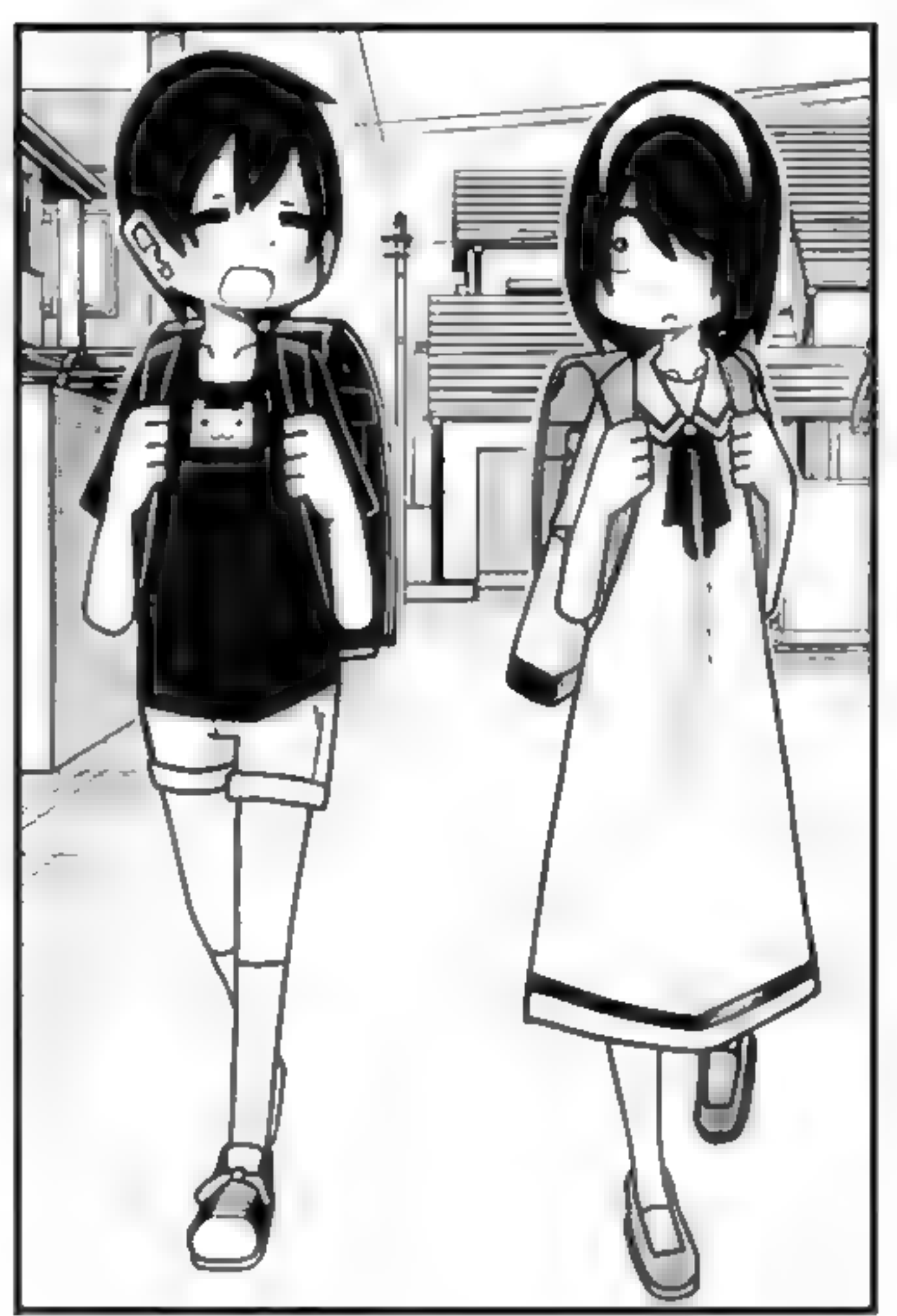
THERE'S
A RARE
MONSTER I
CAN ONLY
GET AROUND
HERE...



I
WONDER
...

...WHAT
NISHIMURA'S
DOING RIGHT
ABOUT NOW.





...WHILE I'M
AWAY AT MY
GRANDMA'S
HOUSE.

I'D LIKE
YOU TO
TAKE
CARE OF
MY CAT,
KURO...

A CAT?

OH, I
SEE.

I'M LEAVING
TO SEE SOME
FRIENDS FROM MY
OLD SCHOOL THAT
DAY, SO I WON'T BE
HOME EITHER...

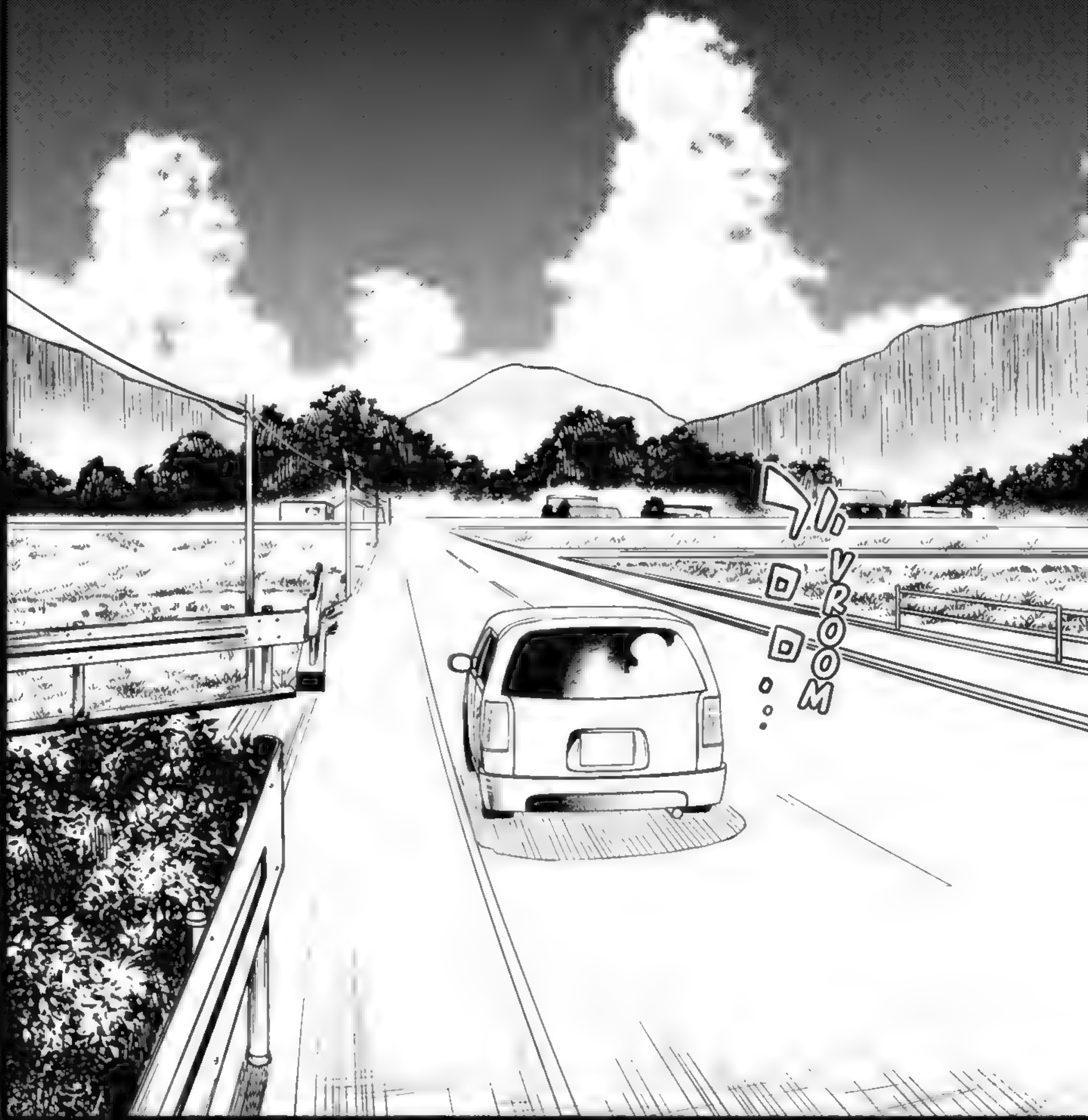
I'M
SORRY,
NISHI-
MURA.

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

THEY
BARELY
LET US
HAVE
HAMSTERS.

NO PETS
ALLOWED AT
MY PLACE.

HOW
ABOUT
YOU,
HINO?





AKANE!



IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE.

NO
BOY!!

I'M
HAPPY
TO SEE
YOU AS
WELL.



GRANDMA!

WELCOME!
I'M SO
HAPPY TO
SEE YOU.



IT'S
SUPER
FUN!

YEAH!

はー
おー

SHINE
あー

THAT'S
NICE,
DEARY.

OH?

I MADE
FRIENDS WITH
THIS ONE
BOY NAMED
TAKADA.

AKANE...

DoD

...WHAT
TAKADA'S
DOING
RIGHT
ABOUT
NOW?

I
WONDER
...



I HAVE
TO ENJOY
GRANDMA'S
HOUSE NOW.

NO, I
SHOULDN'T
THINK
ABOUT
HIM.



は
GASP



I HAVE
SOME YUMMY
WATERMELON
FOR YOU
TODAY.



GLAD
YOU'RE
HAVING FUN,
BUT YOU
BETTER NOT
DROP YOUR
HANDHELD
CONSOLES.

AH HA
HA!

TAKADA AT THAT MOMENT

YA — AY

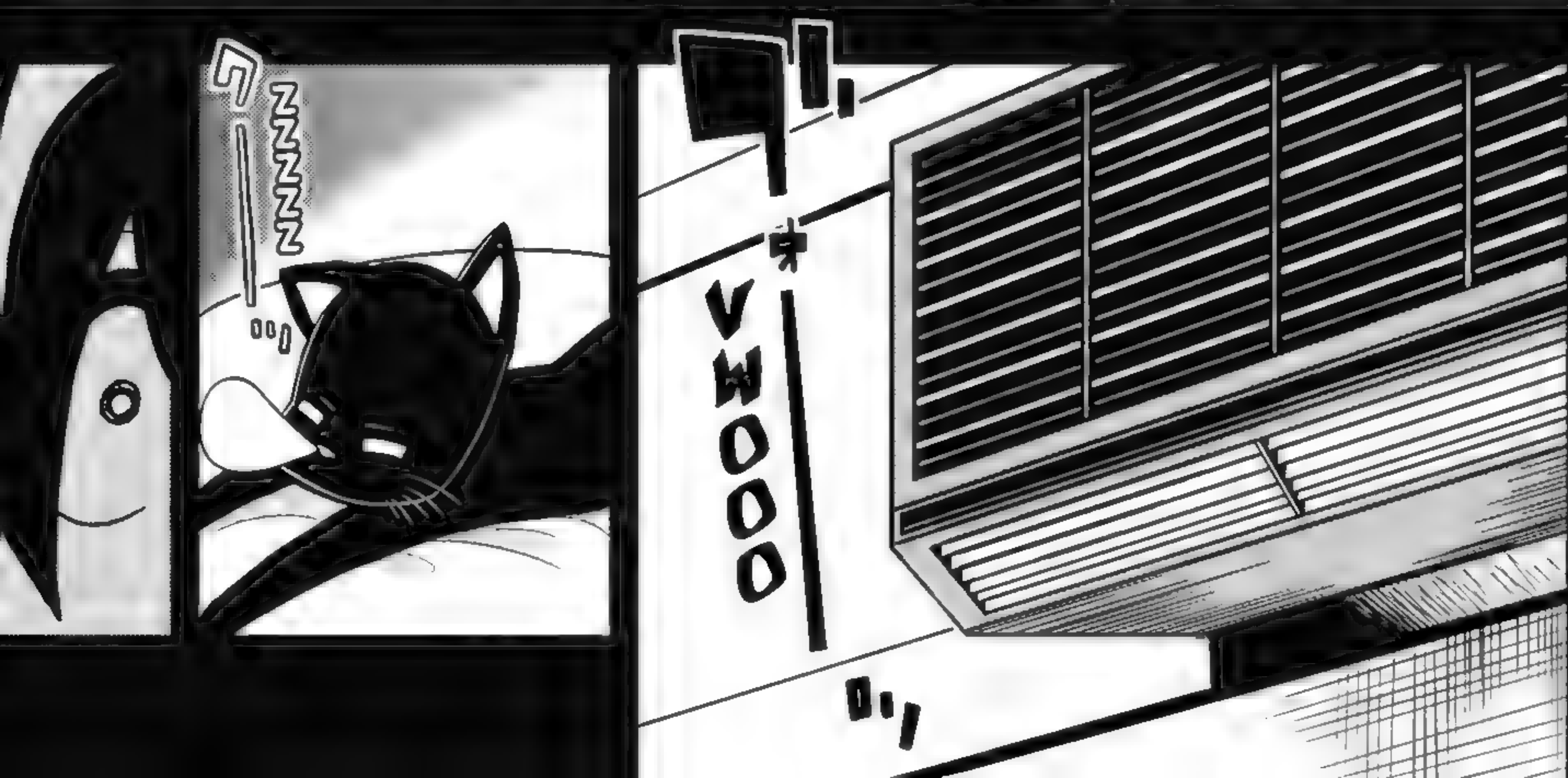
IT'S HERE,
TAIYO! THE
S-RARITY
MONSTER!

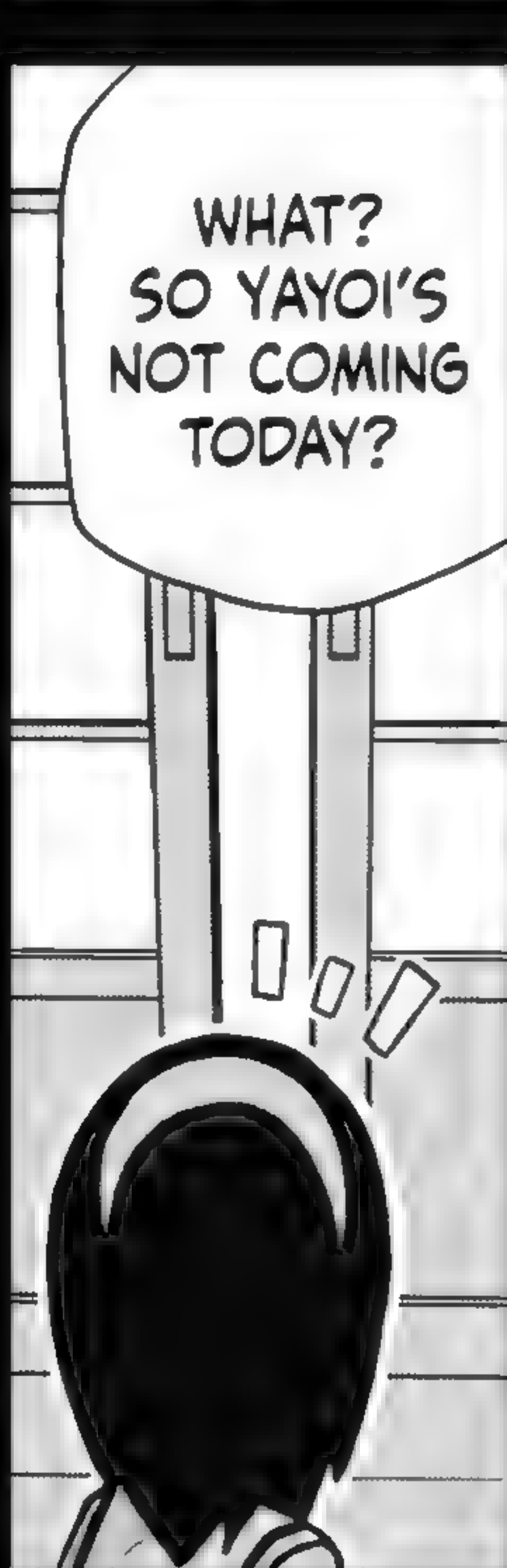


MREEN

MREEN

MREEN





HA
HA.

THAT'S
TOO
BAD...

AMONG THE
COUSINS,
THEY'RE AROUND
THE SAME AGE,
SO I THOUGHT
THEY'D KEEP
EACH OTHER
COMPANY.

SHE'D RATHER
BE WITH HER
CLASSMATES
THAN AT
GRANDMA'S
HOUSE.

OUR
YAYOI'S IN
JUNIOR
HIGH NOW.

...I GUESS I'VE
ALSO BEEN
HANGING OUT
WITH TAKADA
AND HINO
SINCE SUMMER
BREAK BEGAN.

COME
TO THINK
OF IT...

YAYOI'S
WITH HER
CLASS-
MATES...

I
SEE.



I WONDER
WHAT
TAKADA'S
DOING RIGHT
ABOUT
NOW?



EVEN IF YOU
LOVE BEING
WITH YOUR
GRANDMA...

...THERE'S
NOTHING
WRONG
WITH
THINKING
HER HOUSE
IS BORING.

IT'S
ALL RIGHT.
DON'T YOU
WORRY.

N-N-NOT
AT ALL!

I LOVE
BEING
WITH YOU,
GRANDMA!

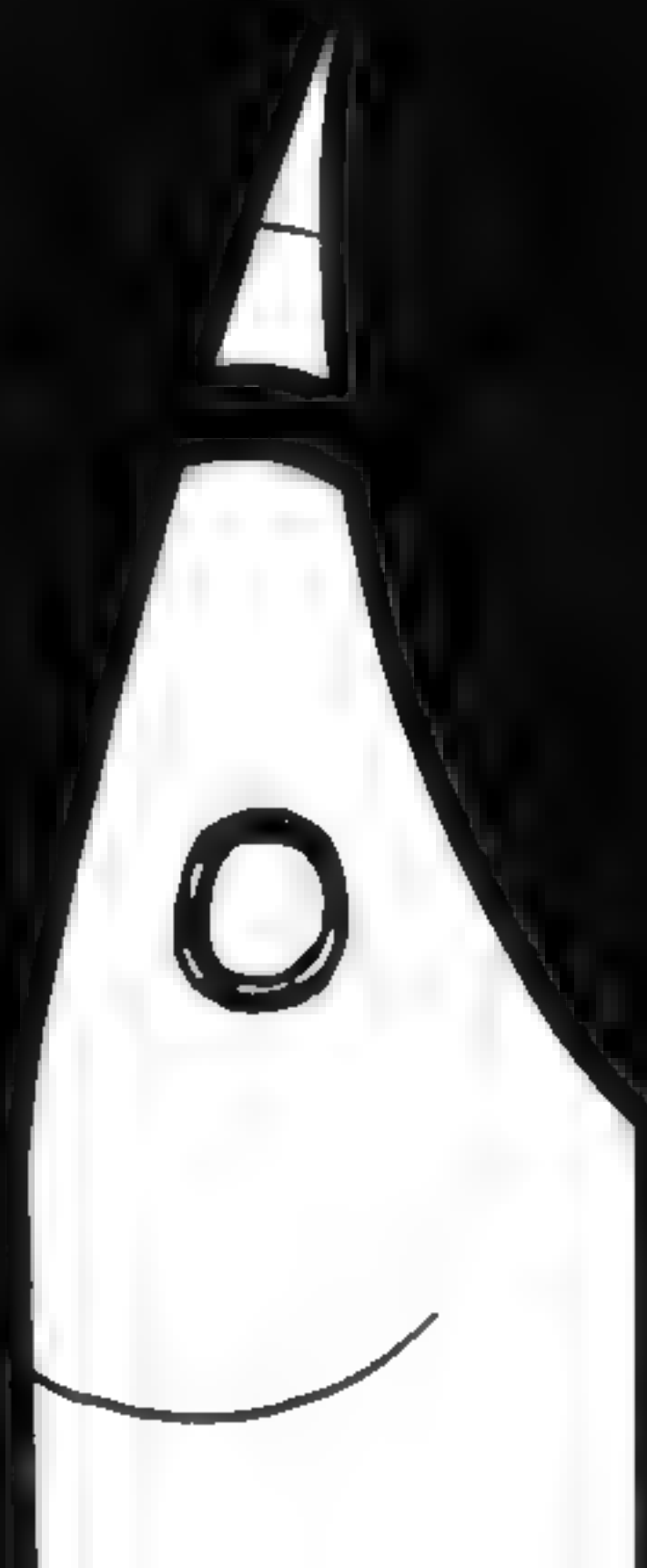
I'M SURE
YOU'VE MADE
A GREAT
FRIEND BACK
AT SCHOOL.

AKANE.



UNTIL RECENTLY,
I NEVER HAD
FRIENDS TO HANG
OUT WITH DURING
SUMMER BREAK...

I SEE.



I'VE
MADE
A VERY
SPECIAL
FRIEND.

YEAH,
I HAVE.



OH
YES.



I'M
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO IT.

I'LL
INTRODUCE
YOU TO
HIM NEXT
TIME!



SPEAKING
OF FRIENDS,
I HEARD YOU
GOT A PET
CAT.



KURO'S
NOT
HERE!

WAIT!

FWUP

HE MIGHT'VE
SLIPPED OUT
THROUGH AN
OPENING
SOMEWHERE.

HE WAS
JUST HERE
RELAXING
AND ROLLING
AROUND.

I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
BROUGHT
HIM WITH
ME...

WHAT
DO I
DO?

OH
N-NO...

THIS
IS ALL
BECAUSE I
BROUGHT
HIM WITH
ME...

I WOULD'VE
BEEN BETTER
OFF
BOARDING
HIM SOME-
WHERE.

EXCUUSE
ME!

B-BUT...

IT'LL
BE ALL
RIGHT,
AKANE.

I'M
SURE HE'LL
SHOW UP
WHEN HE
GETS
HUNGRY.

MEOW

DOES
THIS
KITTEN
BELONG
TO YOU?



TA-
TAKADA?!

OH,
NISHI-
MURA!

?!!



HE WAS
WANDERING
AROUND
OUTSIDE...



WELL...

I WAS
PLAYING
NEARBY, AND
I HEARD
SOMEONE
SAY, "KURO'S
NOT HERE"...

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?

YOU'RE SO SLOW!

WHOOOA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

WAAAH

YOU'RE SO SLOW!

WHOOOA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

WAAAH
お
お
お

**YOU'RE
SO
SLOW!**

**WHOOOA!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?!**

WAAAH

お

HEH HEH...

TAIYO'S A MISCHIEVOUS LITTLE BOY WHO WAS LIVING IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD UNTIL SPRING THIS YEAR.

HEH HEH...

TAIYO'S A MISCHIEVOUS LITTLE BOY WHO WAS LIVING IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD UNTIL SPRING THIS YEAR.

GRANDMA,
YOU KNOW
TAKADA?!



OH, IS
THAT
YOU,
TAIYO?



THIS
IS SOME
COINCI-
DENCE.

NO
WAY...

"SO
I WON'T
BE HOME
EITHER..."

"I'M LEAVING
TO SEE SOME
FRIENDS FROM MY
OLD SCHOOL ON
THAT DAY."

SO THE PLACE
TAKADA LIVED
IN BEFORE HE
MOVED...

HIS OLD
SCHOOL.

BUT THIS IS
MORE THAN
A COINCI-
DENCE.

THIS
IS...

WHAT AN
INCREDIBLE
COINCI-
DENCE!

IT'S LIKE
IT WAS
MEANT
TO BE.



I COULDN'T SAY
IT BECAUSE IT
WOULD BE TOO
EMBARRASSING.

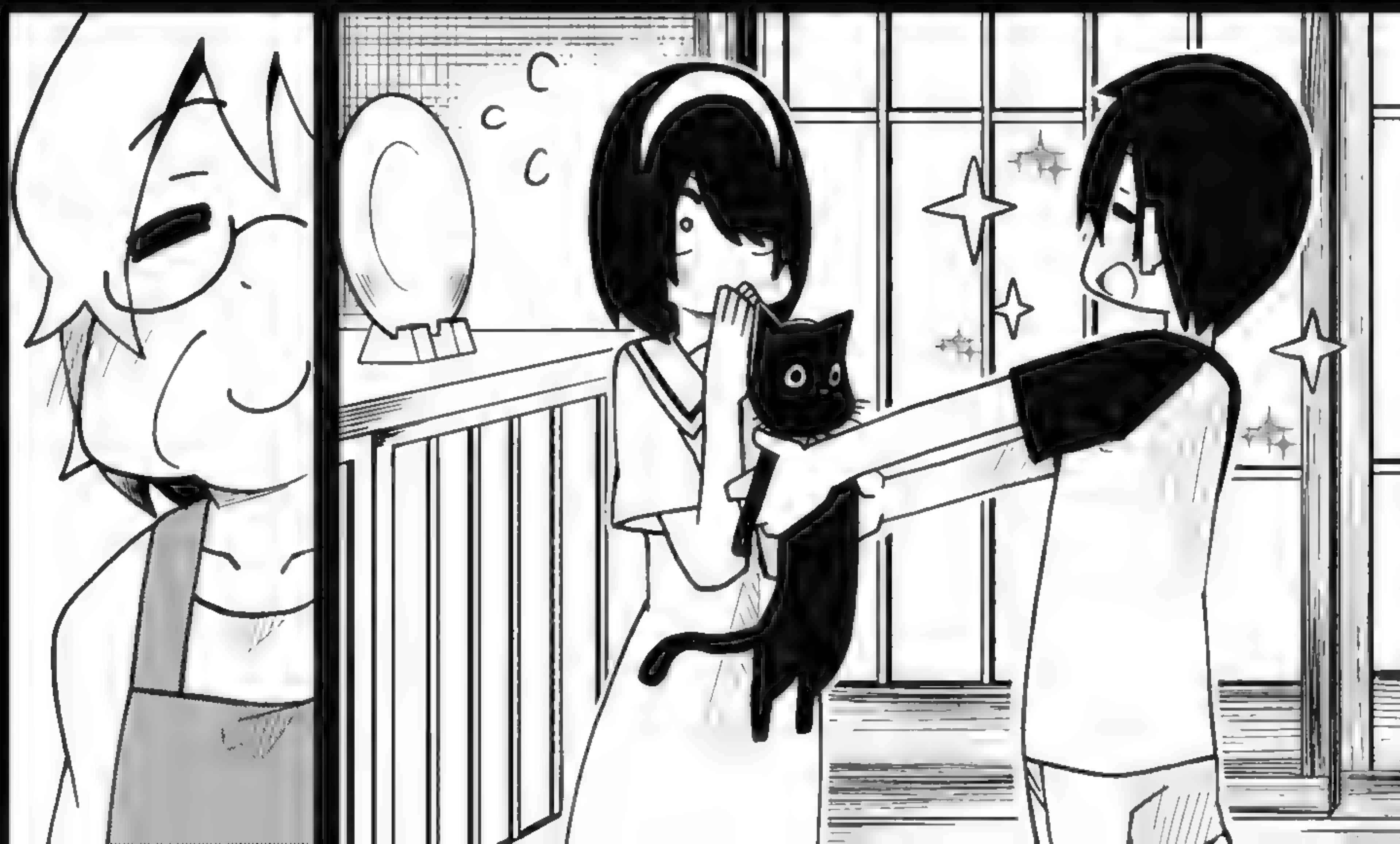
BUT HE
JUST
BLURTED
IT RIGHT
OUT...

はぁ HAAAAH



?







SEE
YOU!

THANK
YOU,
GRAND-
MA!

MY FIRST
FRIEND...
IS TOTALLY
CLUELESS.



OH
MY!

WE MET
THAT TAIYO
KID WHILE
WE WERE
OUT
TOGETHER.

YEAH.

WEREN'T
YOU GOING
OUT WITH
AKANE
TODAY?

SO I
JUST SAID
HI TO HIM
AND CAME
BACK HERE
WITHOUT
AKANE.

PLEASE,
I DON'T
WANT TO
THINK
ABOUT
THAT...

I WONDER
WHERE HE'S
DRAGGED
HER OFF
TO NOW...

A
BOY,
HUH?



OH, NO
WORRIES.

SORRY...

...FOR
MAKING
YOU COME
WITH ME,
TAKADA.

GLEAM

OH-OH
NO, IT'S
NOT-

PLUS, I
HAVE FUN
WHEREVER I
GO AS LONG
AS I'M
WITH YOU,
NISHIMURA!!

I
BROUGHT
YOU
AROUND
TO ALL
KINDS OF
PLACES
YESTER-
DAY.

N-NO,
I DON'T
THINK
SO.

EVERY YEAR,
HUH? SO THAT
MEANS THE SECRET
OF YOUR GRIM
REAPER POWERS
MUST BE AROUND
HERE...

YEAH.

I
DO IT
EVERY
YEAR.

W
O
W
W
W

SO YOU
CAME
HERE TO
VISIT YOUR
FAMILY
GRAVE!

I-I
GUESS THAT
HAPPENS.

IT'S
NORMAL.



A
H
A
A
A



YOU'RE
INCREDIBLE,
NISHIMURA!

I CAN'T
REMEMBER
HOW TO GET
TO MY OWN
FAMILY'S
PLOT.

IT'S
OVER
HERE.



S
P
L
U
S
H
H
H

W
O
O
M





OH-OH,
NO. IT'S
BECAUSE I
COME EVERY
YEAR...

Y
A
A
Y

YOU'RE
AMAZING!

YOU
REALLY
KNOW
EVERYTHING
ABOUT THE
PROCESS!

?

...I DON'T
KNOW IF I'M
ACTUALLY
DOING THIS
RIGHT.

AND
DESPITE
THAT...

OH...
SORRY.

HUH?

I DIDN'T
MENTION
IT...

I'M
OFFERING
HER JASMINE
TEA INSTEAD
OF GREEN
TEA.

U
R
A
FAMILY
GRAVE

THIS CUP
IS HERE
BECAUSE
MY MOM
LIKED IT.

I'M
HERE TO
VISIT HER
GRAVE.

MY
MOTHER...
PASSED
AWAY.



OH, I
SEE.

I'M
NOT SAD
AT ALL
NOW.



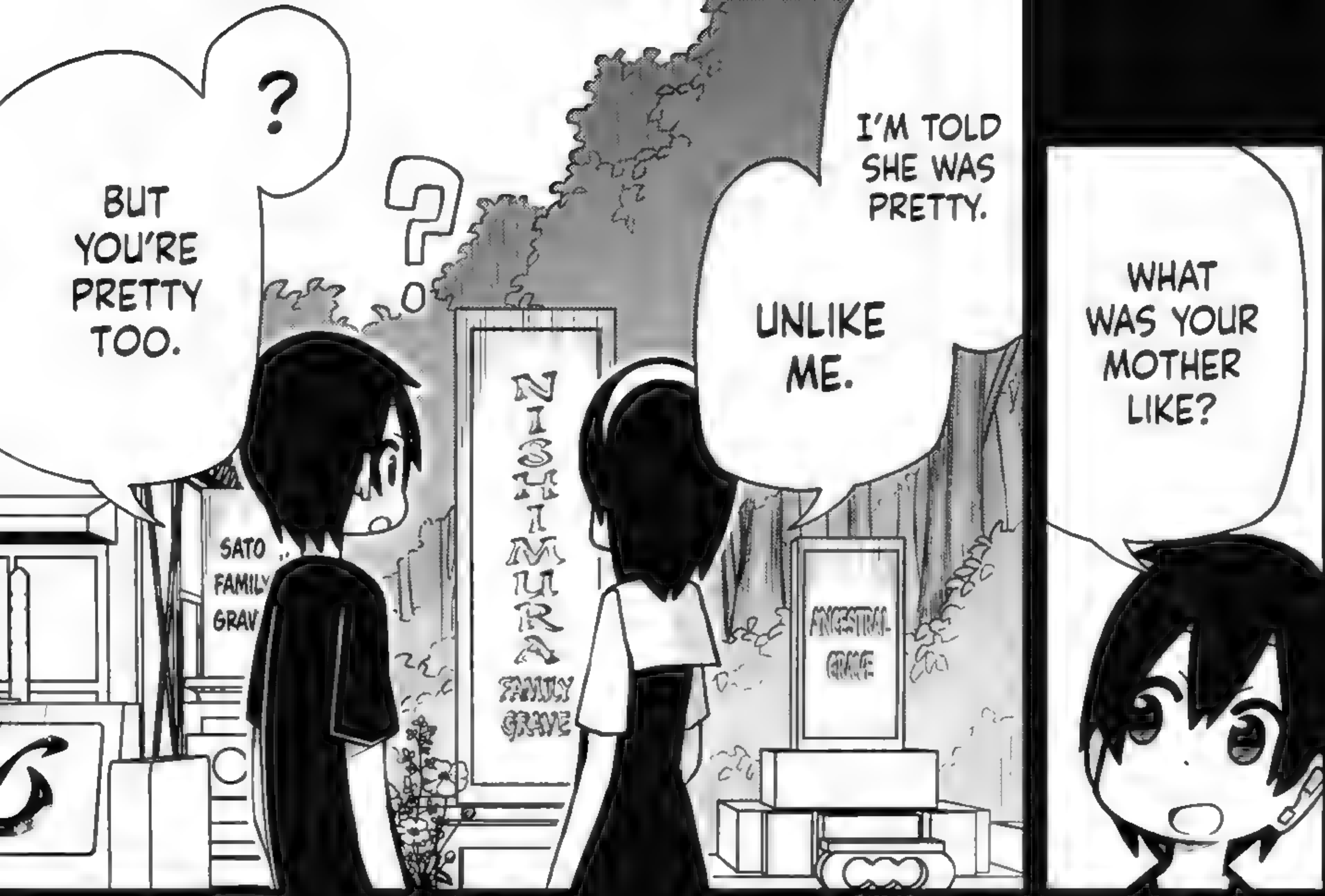
OH NO,
NO, IT'S
FINE.

IT
HAPPENED
BEFORE I
COULD EVEN
REMEMBER.

OH,
THAT'S...

NO ONE
IN CLASS
KNOWS...





BUT
YOU'RE
PRETTY
TOO.

?

?

I'M TOLD
SHE WAS
PRETTY.

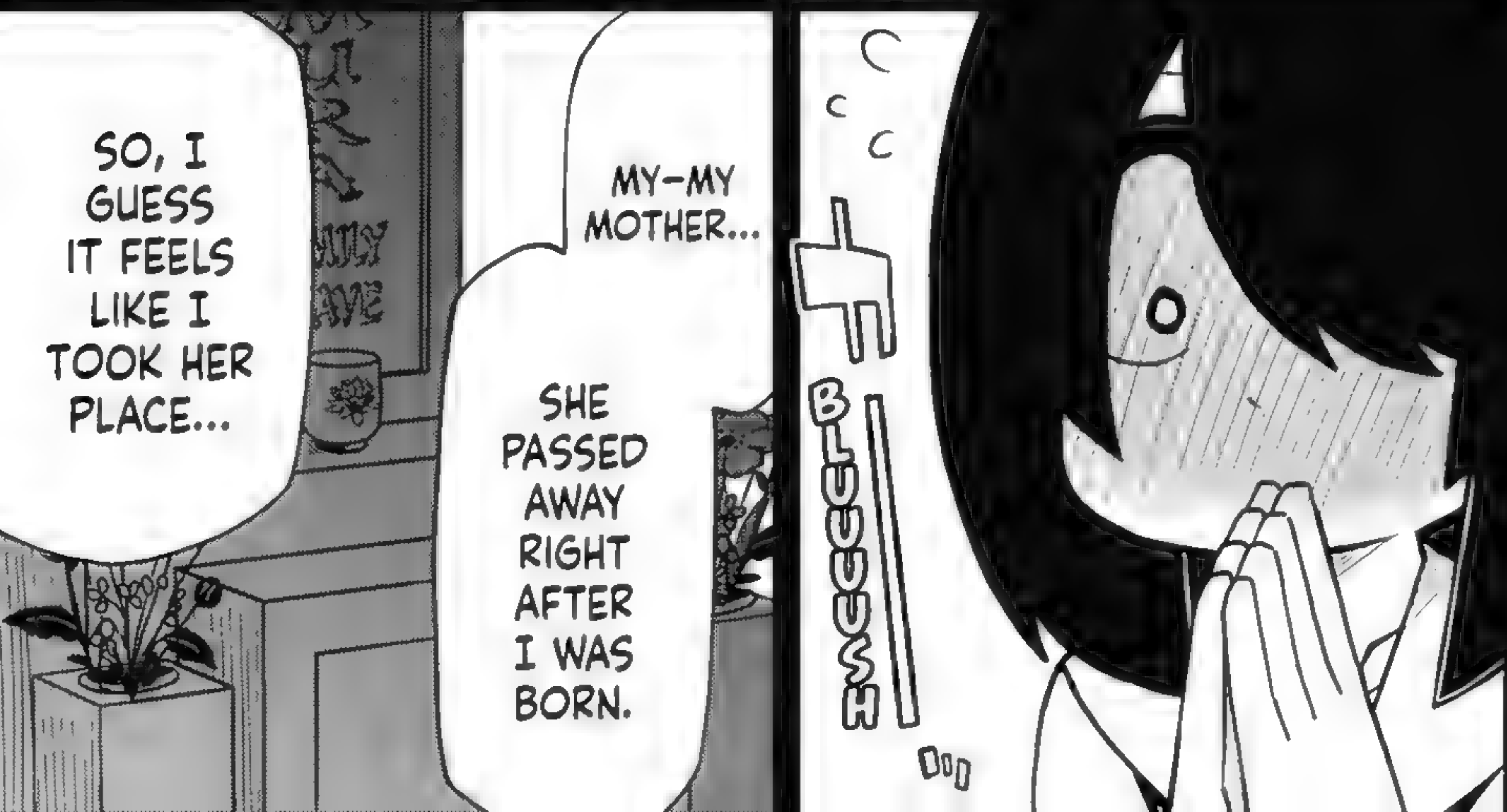
UNLIKE
ME.

WHAT
WAS YOUR
MOTHER
LIKE?



YOUR OUTFIT
TODAY LOOKS
REALLY GOOD
ON YOU TOO.

?!!



SO, I
GUESS
IT FEELS
LIKE I
TOOK HER
PLACE...

MY-MY
MOTHER...

SHE
PASSED
AWAY
RIGHT
AFTER
I WAS
BORN.

C
C

BEEEEEE

DoD

...TOLD
ME A LOT
OF STORIES
ABOUT MY
MOM.

MY DAD
AND MY
GRANDMA...

...KNOW A
LOT ABOUT
HER.

SO
I...

...I STILL
FEEL LIKE
I HAVE A
BOND WITH
HER!

EVEN IF
I TOOK
HER
PLACE...



...THANK
YOU,
TAKADA.



SO...



THANK
YOU.

THANKS TO
YOU, I WAS
ABLE TO
INTRODUCE
SOMEONE
SPECIAL TO
MY DEAR
MOTHER.

THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
INTRODUCED
A FRIEND
TO HER.



FRIEND

...

"I GUESS IT
FEELS LIKE
I TOOK HER
PLACE..."

"MY
MOTHER
PASSED
AWAY..."

?

"THE GRIM
REAPER"...

OHIG

GLOOM

お

...OH.



...I'VE
BEEN
SAYING
...

COULD
IT BE
THAT...

...
TERRIBLE
THINGS
TO YOU?

...ALL
THIS
TIME...

...

HUH?

...BURST
INTO
TEARS.

AFTER
THAT,
TAKADA...





Y-YOU
HAVEN'T...

...THOUGHT
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT!

I NEVER
ONCE...

...TAKADA
WOULDN'T
STOP
CRYING.



EVEN
AFTER
I TOLD
HIM
THAT...

...HOLDING
HANDS
WITH EACH
OTHER.

WE
WALKED
BACK...



AND SO WE
WOULDN'T
LOSE SIGHT
OF OUR WAY
BACK HOME.

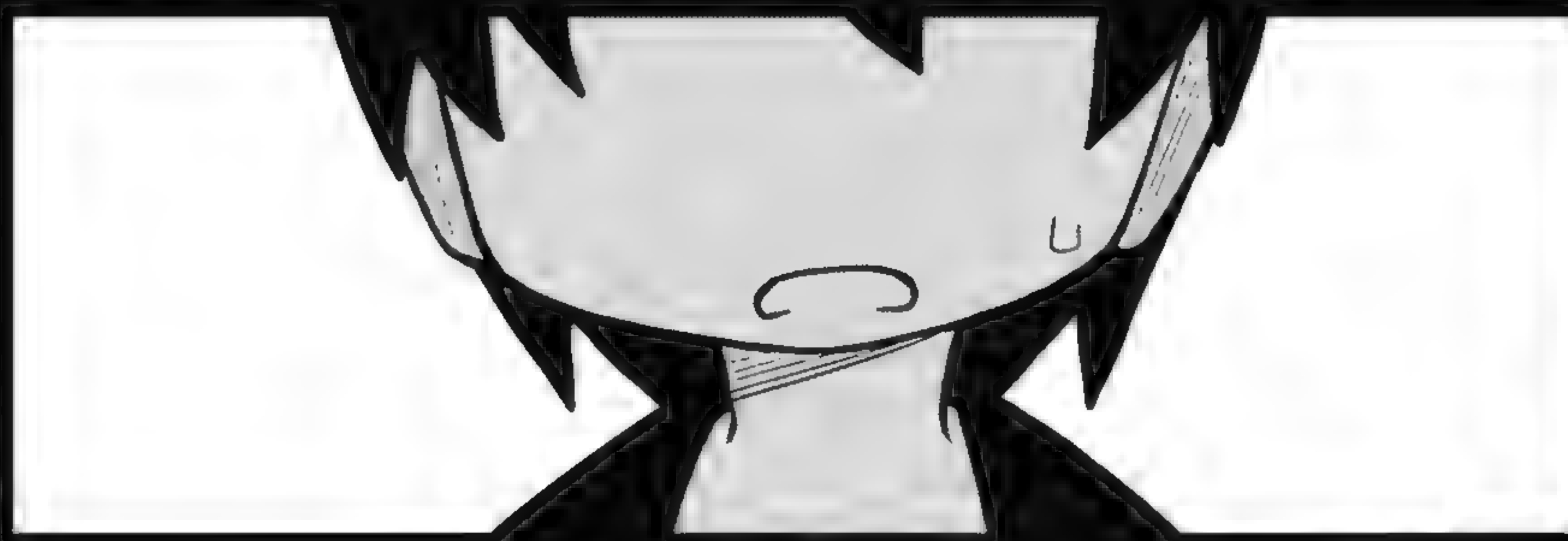
WE CHOSE
TO TAKE A
SLIGHTLY
LONGER
PATH BACK.

WE
FOLLOWED
THE STREET-
LIGHTS SO
WE WOULDN'T
GET LOST.



I...

...FELT SO
NERVOUS...

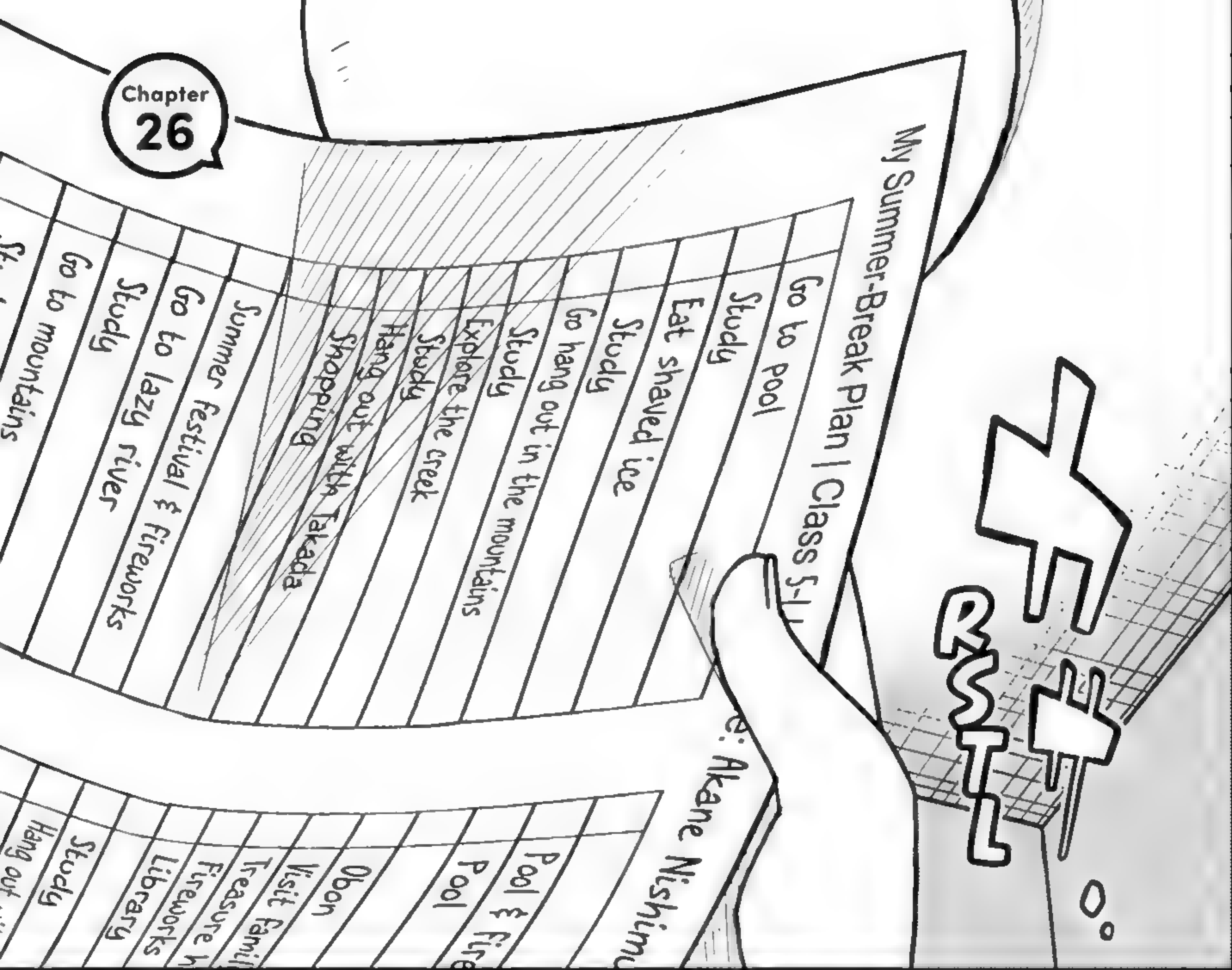


...WHAT
TAKADA
WAS
FEELING.



BUT I
WAS ALSO
CURIOUS
TO KNOW

...



I
HAVEN'T
...

...MET
UP WITH
TAKADA
SINCE THAT
DAY.





...BUT I
HAVEN'T GONE
EXPLORING
FOR
TREASURE...

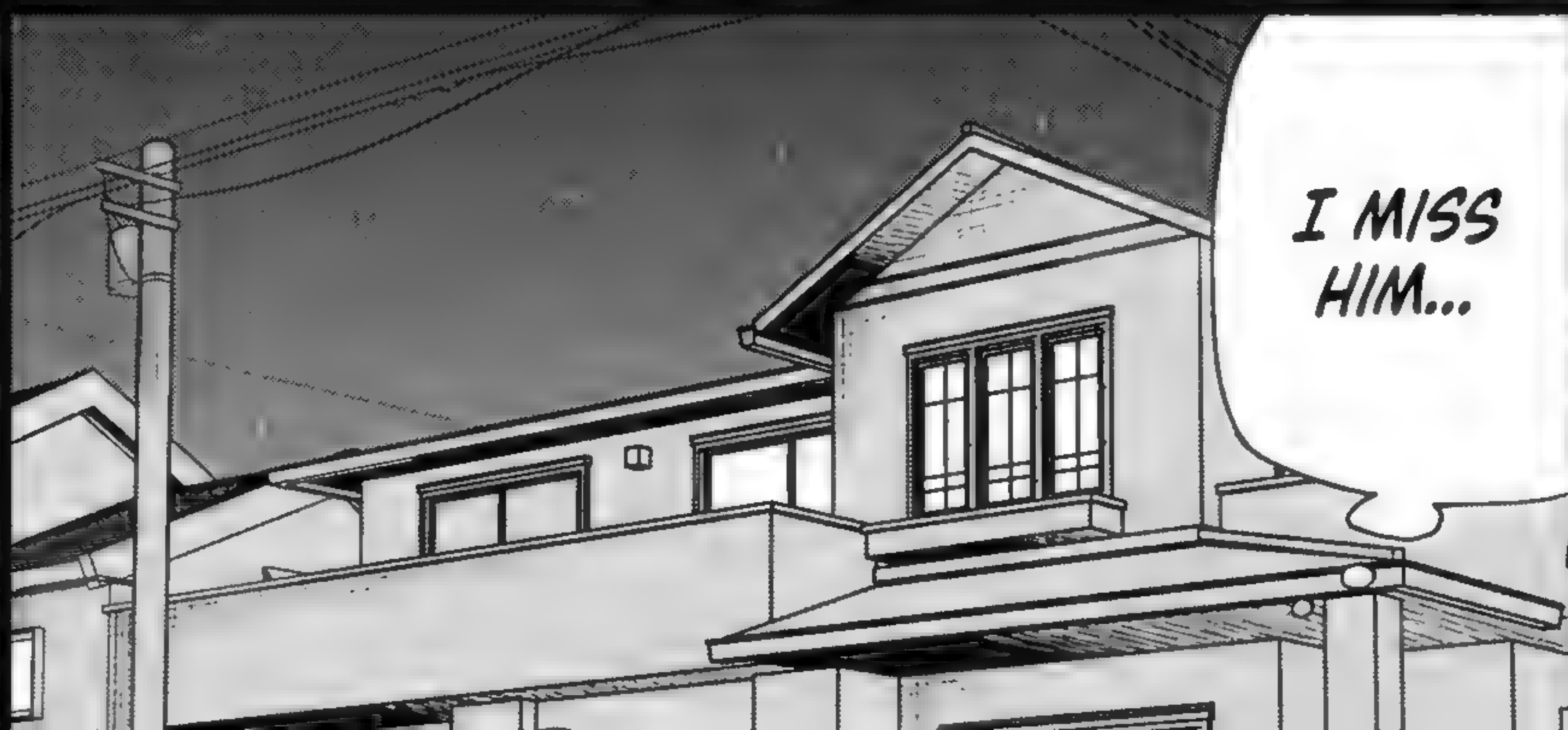
WE WENT
THROUGH
ALL THE
TROUBLE
OF MAKING
THOSE
PLANS...

...OR OUT
TO SEE
FIREWORKS,
EITHER.



"LET'S KEEP
HANGING OUT A
BUNCH DURING
SUMMER BREAK,
OKAY?!"

"NISHIMURA!"



I MISS
HIM...







TAKADA

...

NISHI-MURA...



OHIGE



...IT SHOULD BE OKAY TO TALK BEFORE HINO GETS HERE.

THEN ...

HEY, WAIT!

DASH!!!

SORRY!

I'M GOING TO A HAUNTED SHRINE WITH HINO TODAY!

GRAB



OHIGE

...TO
LET ME
TALK TO
YOU!

PLEASE,
I'M
ASKING
YOU...



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I REALLY
DID
THAT!


I...

OKAY...

OH...







I'M SORRY,
NISHIMURA.

UM...
SO...



...THE GRIM
REAPER
ANYMORE...

I'M NOT
GOING
TO CALL
YOU...

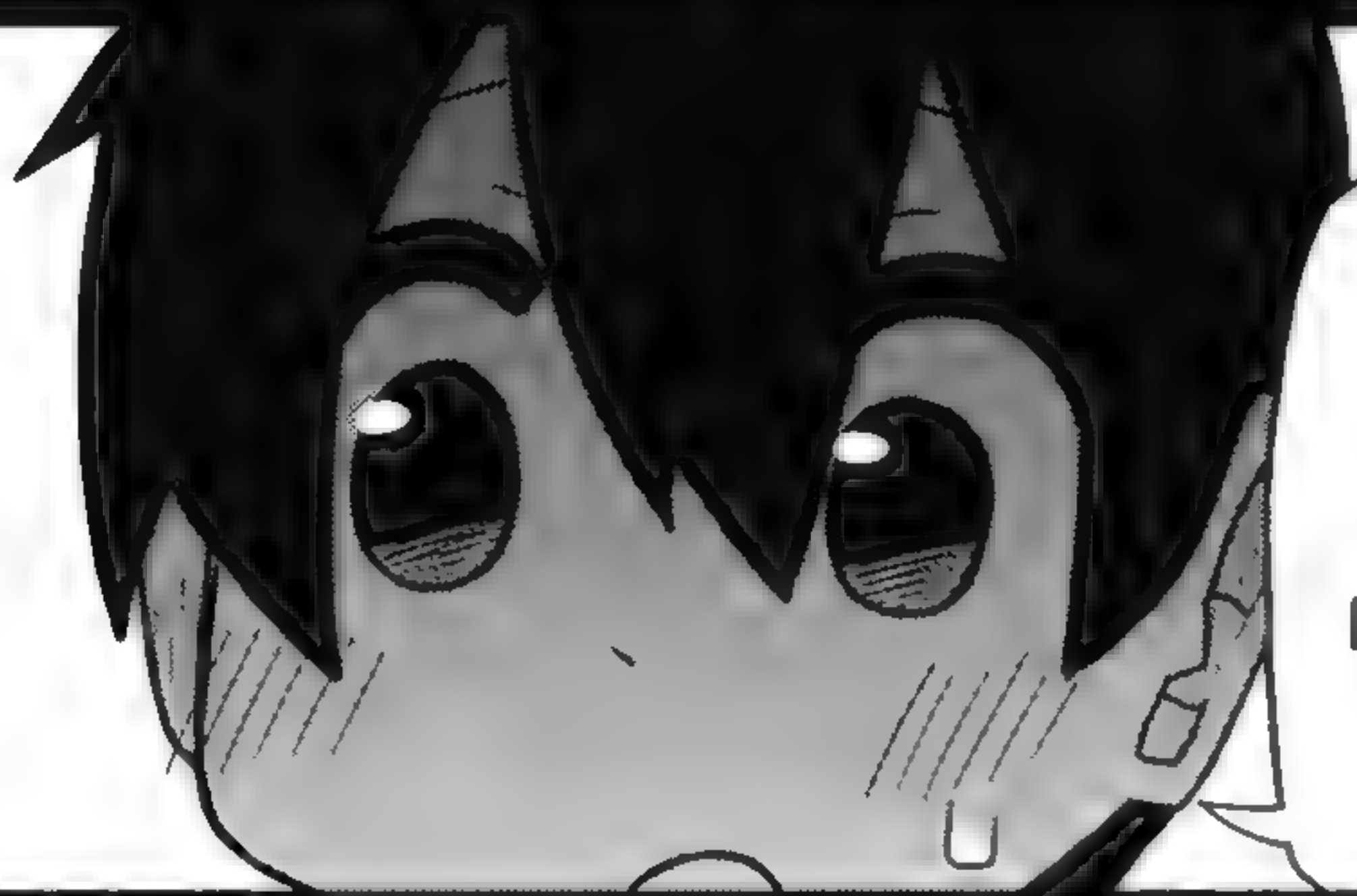


...HUH?

AND THAT
YOU FELT
LIKE YOU
TOOK HER
PLACE.

ABOUT
YOUR
MOTHER
PASSING
AND ALL OF
THAT.

I...DIDN'T
KNOW.



CALLING
YOU "THE
GRIM
REAPER"

...IN A
SITUATION
LIKE THAT...

THAT'S
WHAT IT
SOUNDS
LIKE WHEN
I CALL YOU
THAT.

N
I
S
H
I
M
U
R
A
FAMILY
GRAVE

...IS LIKE
SAYING IT'S
YOUR FAULT
YOUR MOM
PASSED
AWAY.





SO THE
REASON
TAKADA
CRIED
BEFORE...



OH...



BEING
CALLED
"THE GRIM
REAPER"...



...DO I
DO?

WHAT
...





...AND
CALLING ME
THE GRIM
REAPER.

IT'S NOT
LIKE I
ENJOY...

...EVERYONE
MAKING FUN
OF THE WAY I
LOOK...



BUT...





HUH?

RITTL

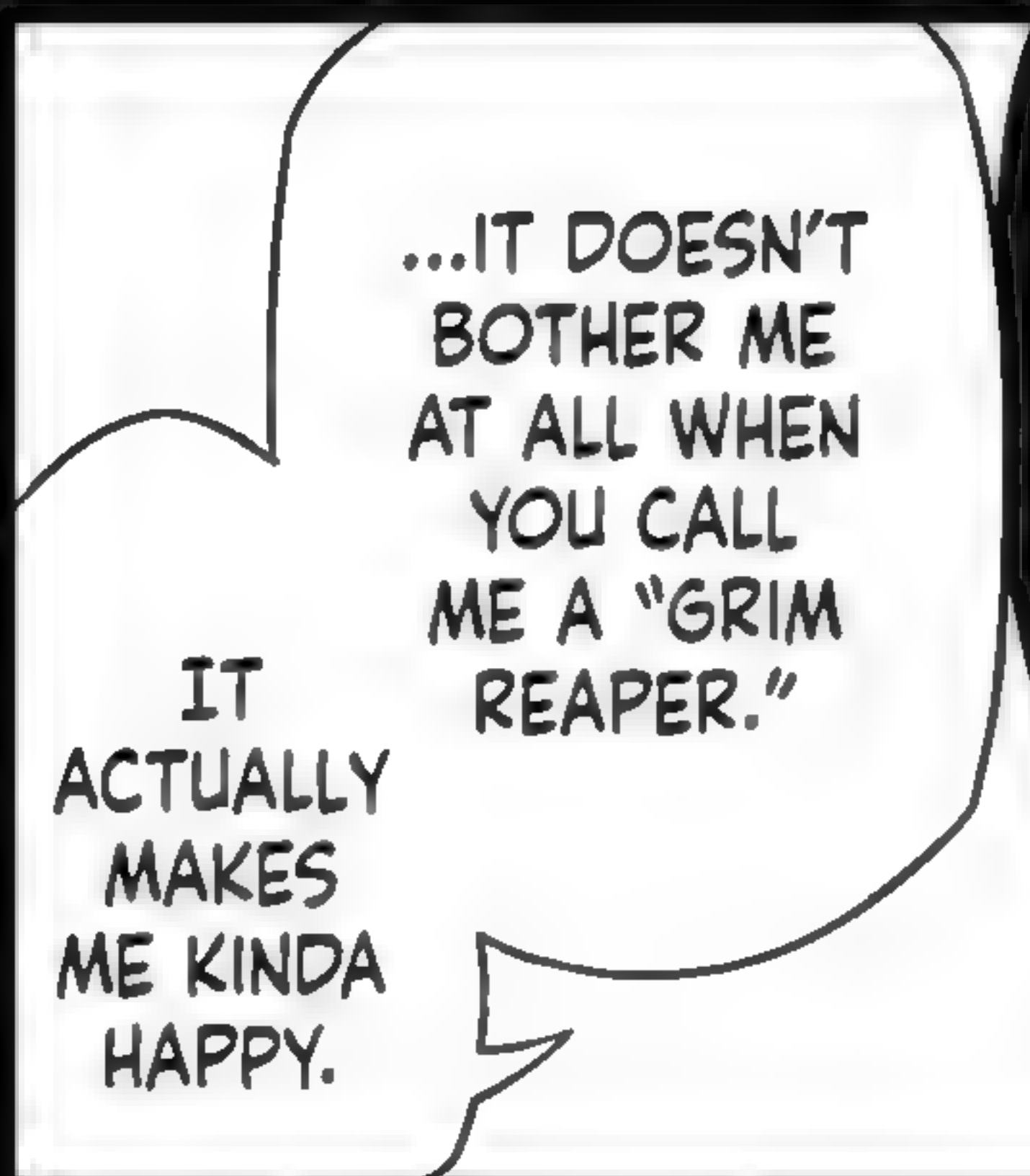
W-
WELL...



IS A "GRIM
REAPER"...

...A BAD
THING TO
YOU?

HEY...
TAKADA.



...IT DOESN'T
BOTHER ME
AT ALL WHEN
YOU CALL
ME A "GRIM
REAPER."

IT
ACTUALLY
MAKES
ME KINDA
HAPPY.



THANK
YOU FOR
WORRYING
ABOUT ME.

BUT...



...I
DON'T FEEL
UPSET
ABOUT ANY
OF THAT.

BUT...



I
KNOW...

...YOU'RE
WORRIED
ABOUT
EVERYTHING
WITH MY
MOTHER...



"...WE HAVE
NO REGRETS
ABOUT YOUR
BIRTH."

"LISTEN,
AKANE."

IT'S ALL
RIGHT,
TAKADA.

"YOUR
MOTHER
AND I..."



"WE'LL
ALWAYS
BELIEVE
THAT."

"WE'RE
GRATEFUL
THAT YOU
CAME INTO
THIS WORLD
FOR US."

...I'M
JUST
FINE!

WHEN IT
COMES TO
THAT...



A black and white manga-style illustration. On the left, a girl with long dark hair, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and a dark skirt, is looking towards the right. On the right, a girl with short dark hair, wearing a dark vest over a white shirt and a dark skirt, is looking back at her with a slightly nervous or shy expression, her hand near her chest. In the background, there is a building with a tiled roof and a window with a grid pattern. A speech bubble from the girl on the left contains the text: "...I THINK SHE'D BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I MADE A FRIEND WHO CALLS ME BY SUCH A COOL NICKNAME!". Another speech bubble from the girl on the right contains the text: "IF MY MOTHER WERE STILL WITH US...".

...I THINK SHE'D BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I MADE A FRIEND WHO CALLS ME BY SUCH A COOL NICKNAME!

IF MY MOTHER WERE STILL WITH US...

...

A black and white manga-style illustration of a boy with dark hair, looking thoughtful or slightly sad. He has a small bandage on his forehead. A speech bubble next to him contains the text: "...THAT I HAVE A FRIEND LIKE YOU!".

...THAT I HAVE A FRIEND LIKE YOU!

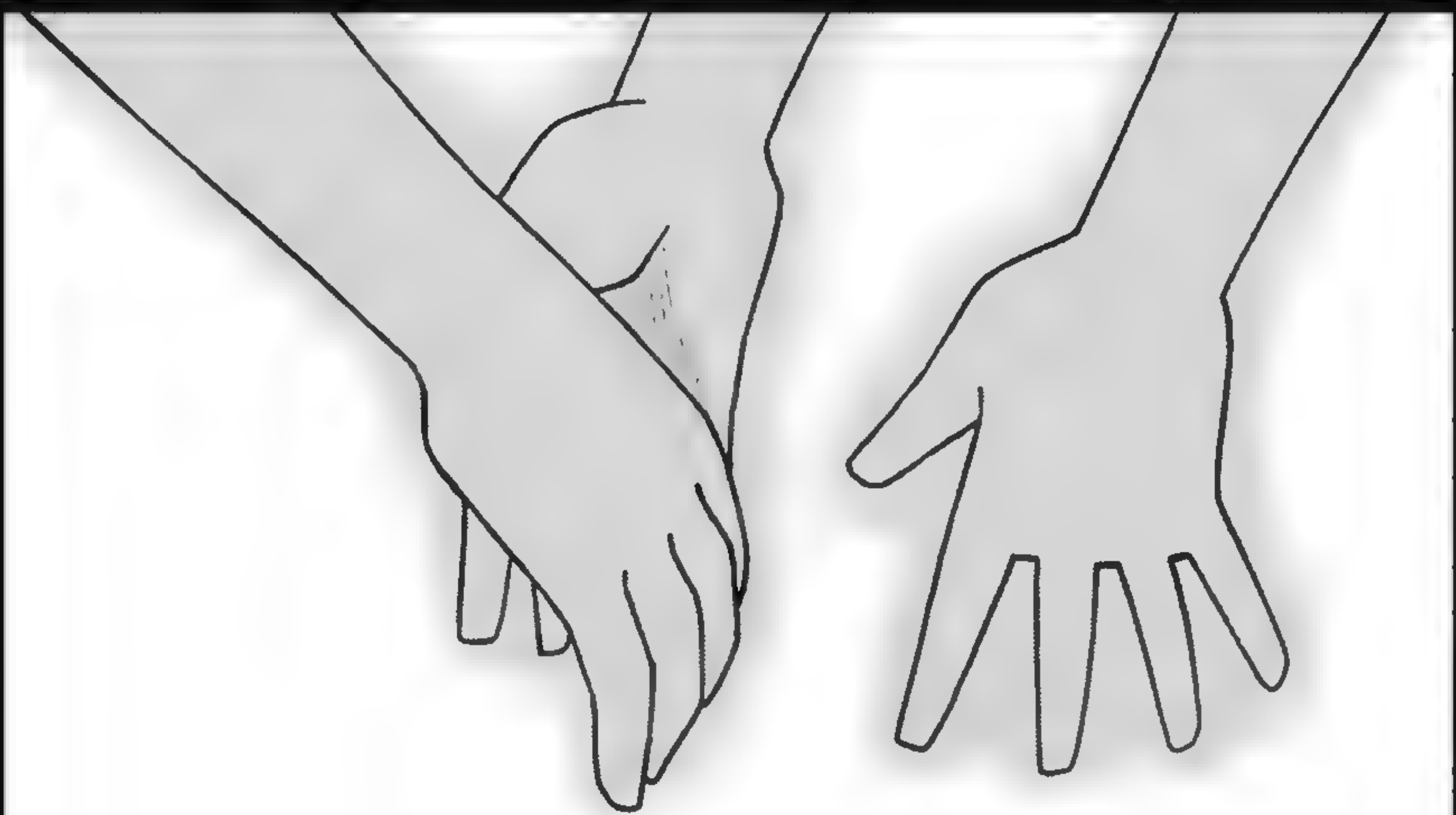
I THINK SHE'D BE REALLY HAPPY TO KNOW...



SO
THAT'S
WHY...

...I DON'T
WANT
YOU TO
CHANGE...

...THE
WAY YOU'VE
BEEN
TREATING
ME ALL
THIS TIME.



...BY
A COOL
NICKNAME
AGAIN.

...TO
CALL
ME...



I
WANT
YOU...



CALL ME
THE GRIM
REAPER.

THE
"GRIM
REAPER"
THAT I
ADMIRE...

...
STRÖNG
...

...IS A
LITTLE
STRANGE,
MYSTERI-
OUS...



...AND
COOL.





AH!

GASP

UMM...
NISHI-
MURA...



HUH?

WHUP

FLAIL

FLAIL

FLAIL

S-S-S-
SORRY!

I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
JUST GRAB
YOUR HANDS
LIKE THAT!



?!?!

I LIKE
BEING
LIKE THIS
WITH
YOU.



WHAT?

YOU
DIDN'T
HAVE TO
LET GO,
NISHIMURA.



BECAUSE
I CAN GET
A BUNCH
OF "GRIM
REAPER"
POWER
FROM YOU!



EH
HEH
HEH.

T-
TAKADA...



...!!

SO...

...IS IT OKAY
IF WE HOLD
HANDS A
LITTLE
LONGER
TODAY?

THANK
YOU.

...YEAH.



I WENT
TO CHECK
IT OUT
SINCE
IT WAS
THERE.

MMF



THERE'S
SOME KINDA
SUMMER
FESTIVAL
HAPPENING
ACROSS THE
WAY.

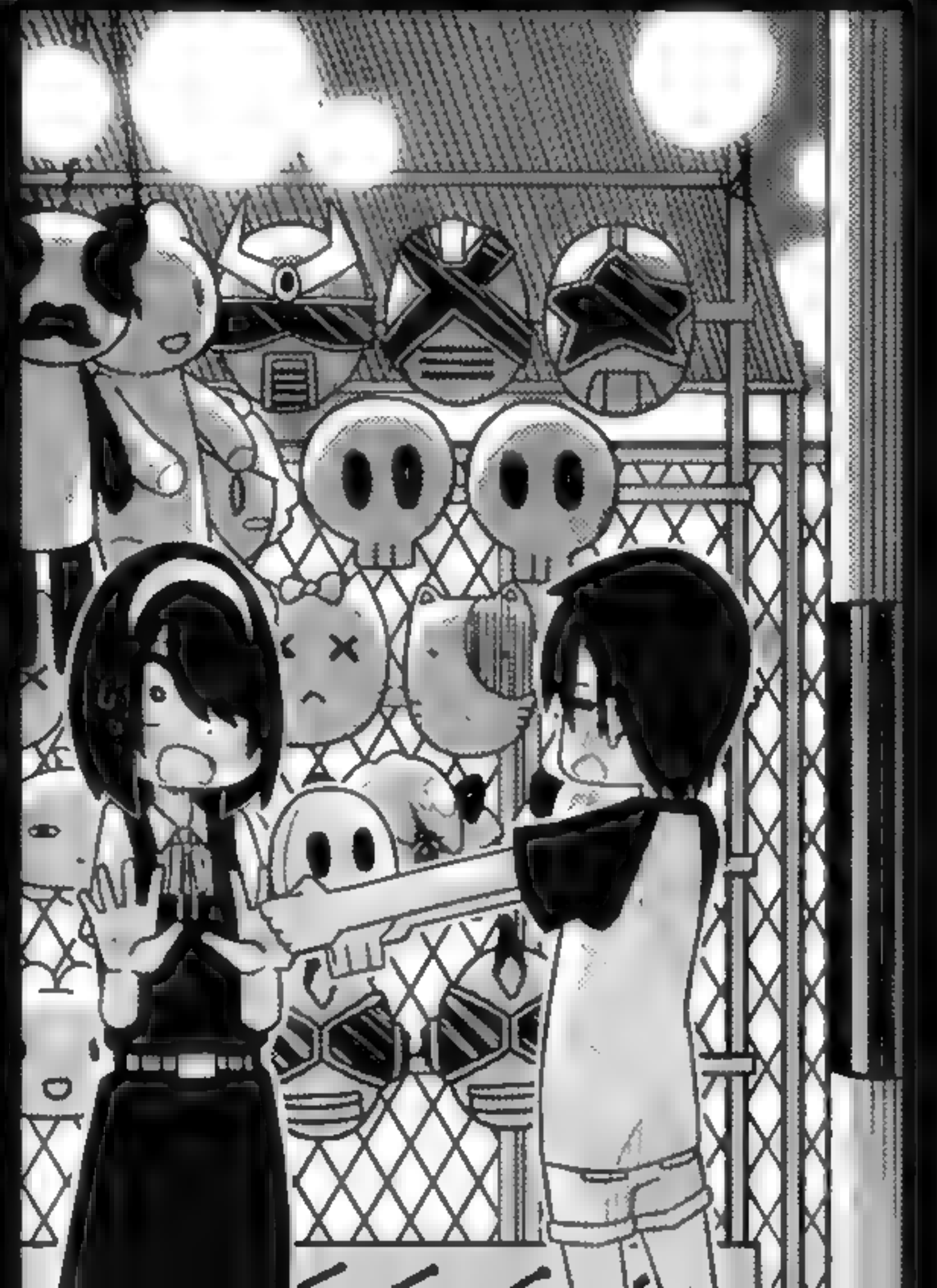
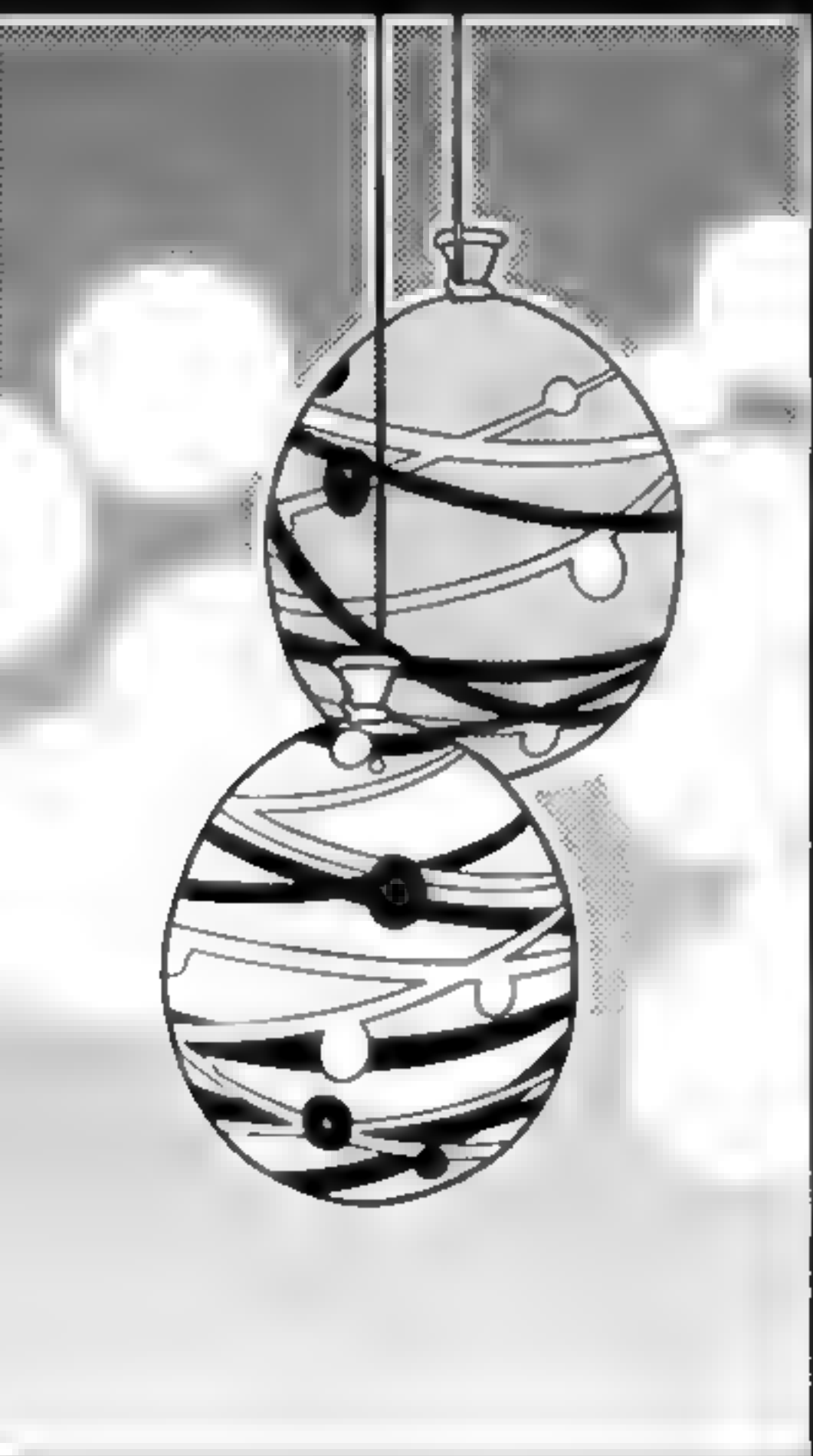


IN THAT
CASE,
WE HAVE
TO GO!

OH...
YEAH,
YOU'RE
RIGHT!

...IT LOOKED
LIKE YOU WERE
GOING TO
FINISH THINGS
OFF WITH A
FESTIVAL...

SPEAKING
OF,
IN YOUR
SUMMER
PLAN...



MY FIRST
FRIEND...
IS TOTALLY
CLUELESS.

KFUIPTERS

OHIGE



NISHI-
MURA!

THIS
IS SO
MUCH
FUN!!



...WHEN
I'M WITH
YOU!

IT JUST
GOES TO
SHOW THAT
I'LL ALWAYS
BE A MILLION
TIMES
HAPPIER...



...YOU
TOOK THE
WORDS
RIGHT OUT
OF MY
MOUTH...

TAKA-
DA...

...



I HAD
THEM
AT MY
HOUSE.

...YOU
REALLY
BROUGHT
FIREWORKS
WITH YOU.

HINO

...



LET'S SEE
WHOSE
SPARKLER
WILL LAST
THE
LONGEST.

**MY CLUELESS
FIRST FRIEND**





MAN,
I HAVE
NOTHING
TO DO.

I
WONDER
WHAT
NISHIMURA'S
DOING RIGHT
ABOUT NOW.

STRETCH



HUH. IT
SEEMS LIKE
I'VE BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT
NOTHING BUT
NISHIMURA
LATELY...

THAT'S
JUST HOW
CHARMING
SHE IS!



Chapter
27

OH?
WAS I
SMILING?

I
WONDER
WHY...

WHAT'S WITH
THE GOOFY
SMILE?
SOMETHING
NICE HAPPEN
TO YOU?

TAIYO.





OH, LET
ME GUESS.
YOU WERE
THINKING
ABOUT
NISHIMURA,
WEREN'T
YOU?



...WHY
YOU'D
LOOK THAT
HAPPY.

I
COULDN'T
IMAGINE
ANY OTHER
REASON...

HOW'D
YOU
KNOW
THAT,
YUKIKO?!

A
M
A
Z
I
N
G
!



AN
ANGEL
?!
U
U

WELL,
NISHIMURA
CERTAINLY
IS AN
ANGEL
AFTER
ALL.

YEAH,
LIKE,
SUPER
HAPPY.

D-DID I
REALLY
LOOK THAT
HAPPY?



SERIOUS!!

SHE'S WAY TOO CUTE— SHE'S AN ANGEL FOR REAL!

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT GRIM REAPERS, BUT NISHIMURA IS SERIOUSLY AN ANGEL.

SHE'S AN ANGEL ON TOP OF BEING A GRIM REAPER?! SHE'S JUST WAY TOO AMAZING!

SHE'S AN ANGEL FOR REAL BECAUSE SHE'S WAY TOO CUTE?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S A DUAL SKILL TYPE! THAT'S ESPECIALLY RARE, EVEN AMONG SKILL HOLDERS!



WHAT'S GOING ON, TAKADA?

?



BUT SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT SHE'S AN ANGEL.

TH- THAT'S SO SAD! I'LL HAVE TO TELL HER!



OH,
DO I?

IT MIGHT
BE BECAUSE
I'M WITH
YOU.

YOU
SEEM
EXCITED
ABOUT
SOME-
THING...



MAYBE
YOU
HAVEN'T
REALIZED
THIS
YOUR-
SELF...

...BUT
YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
AN "ANGEL,"
YOU KNOW.



YOU'RE WAY
TOO CUTE-
YOU'RE AN
ANGEL FOR
REAL!

HUH?!



GOOD...

GOOD
MORN-
ING.

Chapter
28

OH...

YOU LOOK
DIFFERENT
TODAY,
NISHIMURA!

YOU'RE
PIGTAIL-
MURA!

Y-
YEAH
...



IT
DOESN'T
LOOK
GOOD
ON YA!

HUH?
WHY?!

YOU'RE
GOING TO
TRY OUT
PIGTAILS
TOO,
TAKADA?

NICE!

I'D LIKE
TO TRY A
MATCHING
HAIR-
STYLE!

TAKADA'S SISTER

Y-YUKIKO
SAID IT'S A
GOOD IDEA
TO WEAR MY
HAIR LIKE
THIS EVERY
NOW AND
THEN...

GAH!
TOO
EARLY!

YOO

Y
A
A
Y



OH, IT'S
KITAGAWA.

THAT
HAIRSTYLE
TOTALLY
DOESN'T
WORK FOR
YOU!

KITAGAWA
AND HIS
CREW,
HUH?

BAAAAAM



I'M NOT
TALKIN'
ABOUT YOU,
TAKADA!

SORRY?

C'MON, YOU
GUYS. THERE'S
NO WAY HE'D
LOOK GOOD
WITH
PIGTAILS.

THIS IS
TAKADA
HERE, YOU
KNOW?



O-
OKAY.

NISHIMURA!
HE SAID THAT
HAIRSTYLE
DOESN'T WORK
AT ALL FOR
A GRIM
REAPER!

WHAAA
?!

THIS IS
ABOUT
THE GRIM
REAPER!

I'M
SAYIN' THAT
HAIRSTYLE
DOESN'T
WORK AT ALL
FOR A GRIM
REAPER!



SO
COOL!

OH?
AHO!
AHO!

I DON'T
REALLY
MIND.

IT
DOESN'T
BOTHER ME
AT ALL.



HUH? WHY
NOT?

THAT'S
SUPER
COOL,
ISN'T
IT?

SHE'S
A GRIM
REAPER.

⚡ ⚡

THERE'S
NOTHIN'
COOL
ABOUT IT,
TAKADA.

?!
O

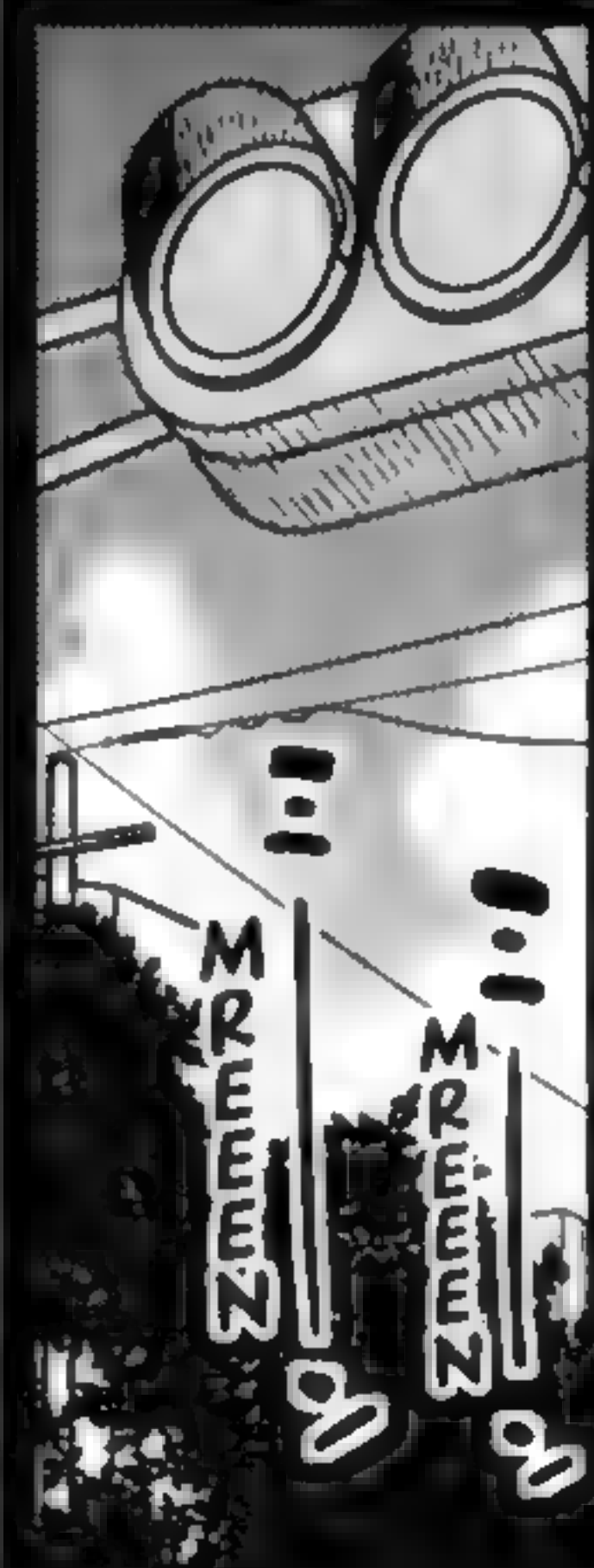


IT'S AMAZING
HOW A
HAIRSTYLE THAT
ISN'T SUPPOSED
TO LOOK GOOD
ON A GRIM
REAPER CAN
WORK SO
WELL FOR
HER, YOU
KNOW?



PHOTOS?

Bonus
Chapter



IS IT ALL
RIGHT IF I
TAKE A FEW
PICTURES
OF YOU?

AND IF YOU
WIN FIRST
PRIZE, YOU
GET A MUSIC
PLAYER!

SO, THE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD
DEPARTMENT
STORE IS
HAVING A
PHOTO
CONTEST!

O-OH,
IS THAT
SO?

HUH?
OF
ME?



WHAAAT?
I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT...

THERE'S
NO POINT
IN TAKING
PICTURES OF
SOMEONE
LIKE ME...

I WONDER
IF THERE'S
ANYTHING ELSE
COOL I COULD
TAKE A
PICTURE OF.

COOL...

AWW...
444...
C
C

I FIGURED
IT WOULD
MAKE FOR
A REALLY
COOL
PHOTO...

HUH? IS
THAT ALL
RIGHT
WITH
YOU?

SH-SHOULD
WE LOOK
TOGETHER?

FOR
SOMETHING
TO TAKE A
PICTURE OF
FOR THE
CONTEST.

LET'S GIVE
IT OUR ALL,
NISHIMURA!



OKAY!
WE'RE
GONNA
TAKE A
TON OF
PICTURES
TODAY!

AND
WE'RE
GOING
FOR...

...FIRST
PRIZE
IN THE
CONTEST
!!

YEAH
HH







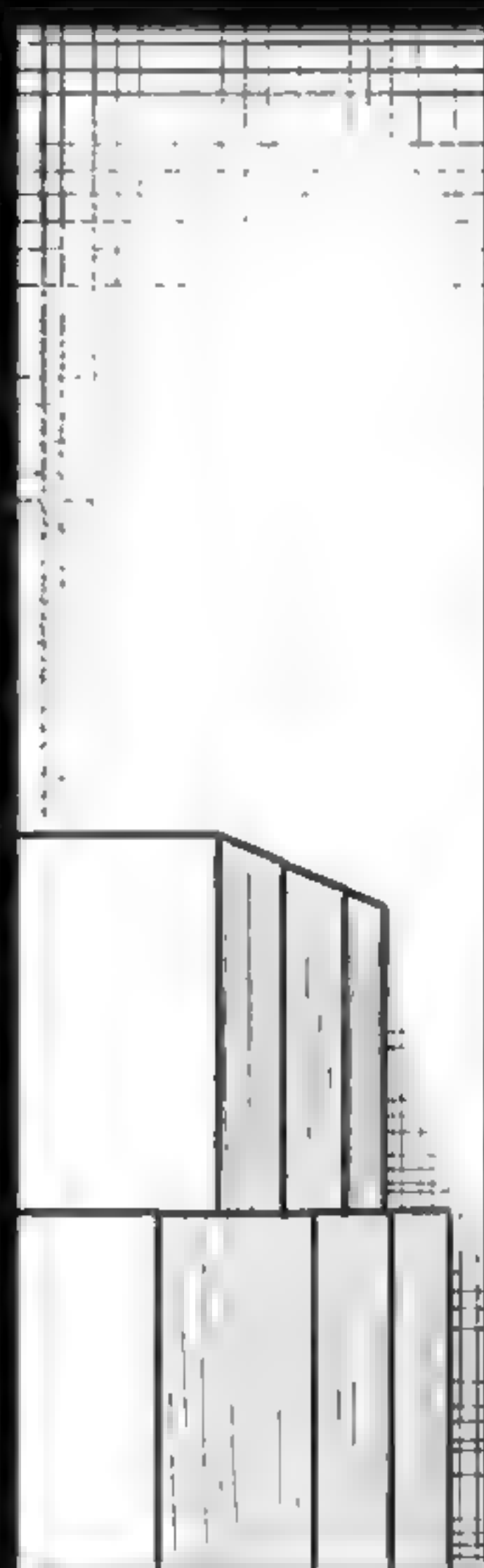


YEAH,
SOUNDS
GOOD.

I-IN ANY
CASE, I THINK
YOU SHOULD
GO AHEAD
AND TRY TO
TAKE ALL
KINDS OF
PICTURES.



NOW
DO ME!
DO ME!



TAKADA,
THE PHOTO
WILL BE
BLURRY IF
YOU MOVE
AROUND.







NOW WE
HAVE A
BUNCH OF
MEMORIES
FROM THIS
SUMMER!

Y-
YEAH...

WE TOOK
SO MANY
PICTURES!

EAM Doo

FOR
SPENDING...

THANK
YOU,
NISHIMURA.

EH
HEH

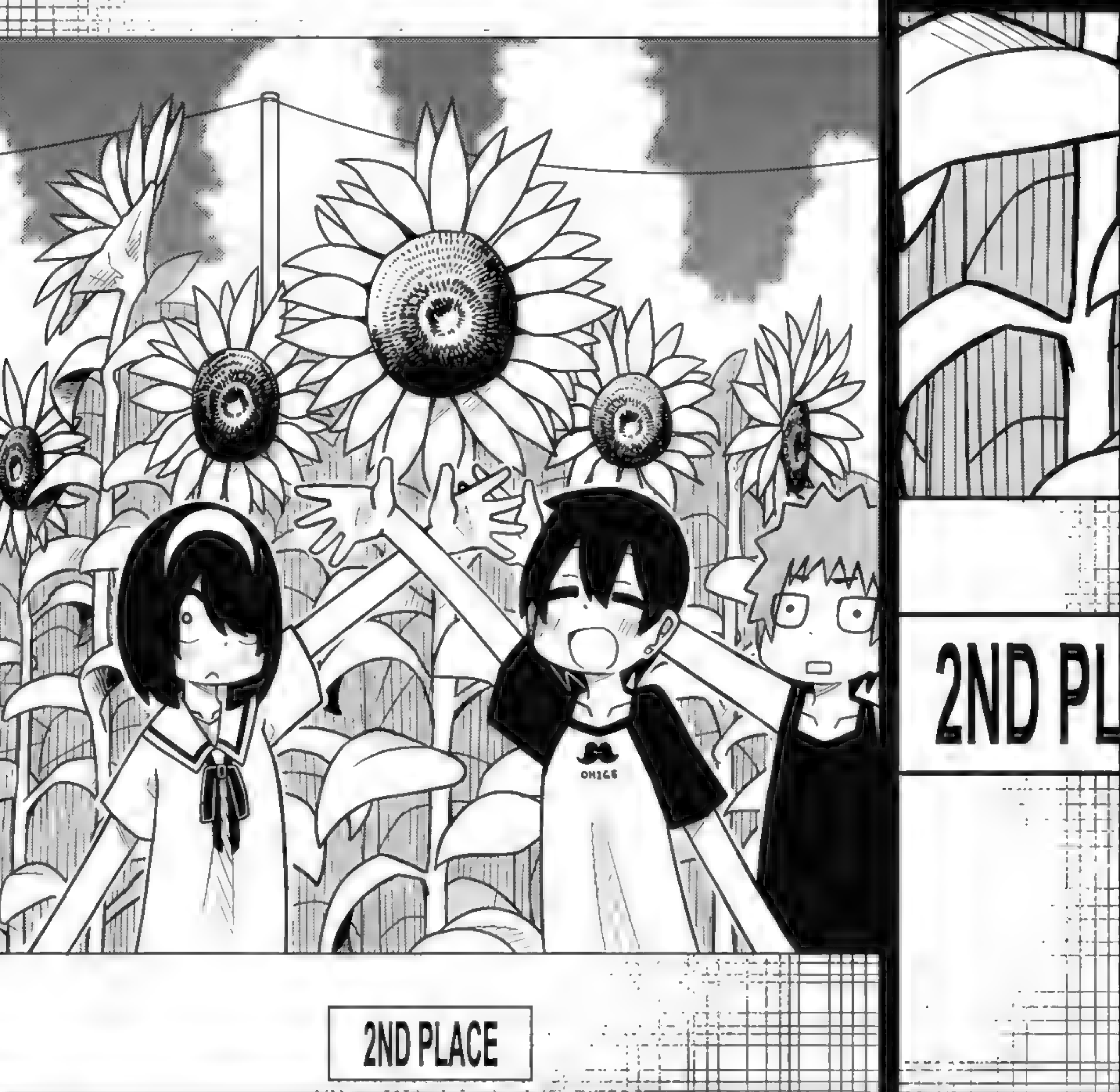
EH
HEH

OHIGE

I'VE
HAD SO
MUCH FUN
HANGING
OUT WITH
YOU!

...SUMMER
BREAK
WITH ME.





MY CLUELESS FIRST FRIEND

Volume 2 coming soon!

A new semester means
changes for the
whole class!

It's back to school after a long summer break

As Nishimura slowly gets to know more of her
classmates, she starts to open up at last!





My Clueless First Friend

①



MY CLUELESS FIRST FRIEND

story and art by TAKU KAWAMURA

Translator: Ajani Oloye
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My Clueless First Friend Volume 1
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First published in Japan as *Jijou o Shiranai Tenkousei ga Guigui Kuru* in 2019 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.
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ISBN (ebook): 978-1-64609-682-4

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available upon request.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2022917176

Published by Square Enix Manga & Books, a division of SQUARE ENIX, INC.
999 N. Pacific Coast Highway, 3rd Floor
El Segundo, CA 90245, USA

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MANGA & BOOKS
square-enix-books.com





Chapter
29

OH
N-NO,
YOU
DON'T
HAVE
TO SAY
THAT...

JUST
LIKE YOU
ALWAYS
DO!

AND
YOU'RE
LOOKING
CALM
TODAY!

OH
REALLY?

I-I
DON'T
REALLY...

...LIKE
MY FACE
WHEN I'M
SMILING.

"DID YOU
KNOW?
ABOUT
THE GRIM
REAPER'S
SMILE?"

"I BET
SHE
HAS A
CREEPY
SMILE."







...I'LL
NEVER HATE
YOU.

NO MATTER
WHAT TYPE
OF SMILE
YOU MAKE...



"I BET
SHE HAS
A CREEPY
SMILE."



HUH?

WHY'D
YOU
THANK ME
TWICE?

?

...
THANK
YOU.

O-
OKAY...

THANK
YOU...

YAAAY

SO DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT NOT
LOOKING
CALM!

SMILE
AS MUCH
AS YOU
WANT!

**MY CLUELESS
FIRST FRIEND**

